

Now Britain faces single European tax system

Exclusive: France and Germany spearhead plan to control revenue and social security

Brussels

Plans to create a single European system for tax and social security are being privately prepared in Brussels by a powerincluding France and Germany. They envisage control over income tax being pooled by national governments inside the Britain's entire relationship with single currency area.

The plans contained in papers seen by The Independent, but which are unlikely to have been submitted yet to the British government, are part of the

chance of Britain joining the single currency in the foreseeable future. The plans will be widely viewed in Britain as an attempt by France and Germany ful alliance of countries to radically alter the fundamental character of the union and the Euro-sceptics will now have new cause to argue that

> the EU should be renegoriated. Opponents of the single currency have always suggested that it would eventually mean a single European economic policy, covering tax and social security.

rope. In practice, they are like- Paris and now Bonn agree and states view a multi-speed Eu- written into European law now. ly to kill off any remaining are scriously contemplating forging ahead with what will be, in omy. This thinking is so far ahead of what Westminster has contemplated that it makes British membership of EMU, under a Conservative or a Labour government, very unlikely.

By contrast, France and Germany are spearheading the drive to ensure that powers to build a common economic policy are written into a "flexibilichapter in the next treaty on European Union union reform, due in June. An official EU re-

rope, specifically mentions Economic and Monetary Union as effect, a single hard core econ- a key area, where some states will want to move faster than others.

The report does not directly call for harmonising direct tax and social security. However, according to highly placed sources in Brussels, France and Germany have signalled that they want power to integrate in these

areas after the EMU launch. Common policies en direct tax and social security may not be possible until a few years after the EMU launch, France and Germany concede. But they

as further treaty revisions may not be possible for some time. Other priority areas singled

and criminal justice, environment law, and indirect taxation under the single market rules. The proposals are being circulated amid intense debate about how Europe can deepen integration without being

out in the report for faster

power-sharing are immigration

blocked by Britain or any oth-. states moving ahead. er members states who oppose further power-sharing.

On Monday, member states will hold the first formal dischapter. A separate European mum of, perhaps, eight coun-Commission blueprint for flexibility, to be discussed by the Commission today, also leaves open the possibility of greater economic power sharing under

monetary union. Under the "multi-speed" arrangement, envisaged by the Commission Britain would not be forced to join the new round of power-sharing, but would be unable to stop other member

The Commission blueprint states that decision on whether core groups share new power in future should be taken by qual-

tries would be necessary before powers are shared under the new "flexibility" arrangement. says the Commission. John Major has recently been

advocating a "flexible" multispeed Europe, suggesting that Britain's interests would not be damaged if countries pool powers faster than others. In the treaty negotiations

Mr Major now faces a battle to ensure that monetary union is specifically excluded from new "flexible" power sharing, and that the British veto is strongly defended.

landmines.



Ford set to impose huge job cuts

Labour Editor

Ford is expected to announce cuts of one-third in the workforce at its Halewood plant today and the end of volume car production on Merseyside.

Union leaders also expect to be told that the plant has failed in its bid to produce the replacement for the Escort model, Britam's second most popular car. The decision would mean that for the first time Ford will

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The Tabloid

exports. The group already imports all the Mondeos on sale

Halewood is now expected to build a new "People Carner" vehicle, based on the Escort. Production of the existing Escort will continue until next year at a reduced rate, and the transmission department will remain open.

It is thought that 1,300 jobs have to import more of its cars but the end of volume car pro- threatened to bring Ford pro-

for the UK market than it duction marks a sea change in European production.

the company's policy towards

Management plans will be revealed to senior union representatives today at Halewood by David Gorman, head of manufacturing in Europe. The de-cision to "down-size" Halewood comes after a series of accusations about the plant's low pro-

Tony Woodley, National Ofwill go, leaving around 3,000 ficial of the Transport and Gen-jobs at the Merseyside works, eral Workers Union, has

still if the company refused to produce the Escort replacement at Halewood.

The Saarlouis factory in Germany and the Spanish plant at Valencia have already been assured that they will be producing the new Escort, due to be launched in 1998.

Mr Woodley said yesterday: I have to go into the meeting believing that it makes no economic or political sense to close Halewood. I am determined to come out of the meeting with

duction in Europe to a stand- a car plant that will continue to produce high volume quality vehicles for this country and Europe." He warned of co-ordinated union action to save Hale-

> wood if necessary. Ian McCartney, Labour's chief employment spokesman, said: "We have already lost 180,000 manufacturing.jobs over the past few years in the North-west and this announcement would give the lie to government claims that they have created the investment

Ford's vehicle production in Britain has declined from 635,000 in 1979 to less than 400,000 last year, while employment at the company's plants in the UK dropped in the same pe-riod from 75,000 to 30,000. Employment levels in Germany

Ford union leaders have argued that the company should be increasing investment in the United Kingdom.

have remained level at around

Ford last night refused to

comment

QUICKLY

Diana retreat

Seoul riots grow Thousands of demonstrators The Government was forced fought pitched battles with the into an embarrassing retreat after reports that a minister deriot police in central Seoul yesscribed Princess Diana as a terday as the South Korean govloose cannon for backing a ernment appeared to be Red Cross campaign for a preparing for a political crackworldwide ban on the use of down against striking trade

unionists.

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100 years on, Country Life puts pearls before swine "most of the poor living on suburban es-tates, picking up casual work whenever Aslet said. "I thought we could make a little play, with girls wearing nothing but their pearls." The fashion spread will ei-It has taken a 100 years. But after a centhey can; the rest will be servants for the tury of rural, upper-crust, traditional. almost Puritan, values, Country Life ther be seen as turning the magazine into

has thrown moral caution to the wind and printed its first "page three" nudes. With all the shock of a Hawaiian shirt worn for a deer hunt, the magazine fa-

mous for its Barbour-clad pin-up draped across a Range Rover has opted to celebrate its centenary with a bevy of beauties wearing nothing but their pearls. A tasteful nipple on page S8 and its accompanying au naturel reat view are, according to the editor Clive Aslet, "tantamount to works of art by the photographer, John Swannell".

It may be an old excuse for the insertion of a bit of populist culture, but Mr Aslet insisted: "Look, I felt, here we are in existence for 100 years. And I took the conscious decision to show that we are not as stuffy as people think."

The usual "gels in pearls" portraits was ordered to be jazzed up. "I transmitted

what I wanted to the fashion editor," Mr

Vogue for the green welly brigade, or a welcome relief from somewhat Victori-

an attitudes. Although the pages of artistic audity will attract attention, Mr Aslet is also celebrating the centenary with an attempt to predict what the next 100 years of Britain's country life will bring. For a magazine that lives in the past, its special report "A vision of the country AD 2097" makes some remarkable predic-

Seeing "change more profound than has been seen in this century" the report is a catalogue of economic, social, environmental and cultural warnings. A bad century for the country house means that by 2097 a small rural pad will cost £250m. Increasing numbers of young people will move back into "ser-

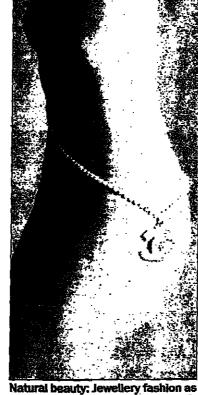
vice" as land and wealth are concentrated in even fewer hands.

rich". While Marxists would say "well, no change there", there are still more shocks. One of the "alternative views" is that life in Britain by 2097 will become so grim that "almost everyone emigrates to the Pacific Rim countries on reaching the

age of 14". The remaining geriatric population, for sport, will compete in an over-90s "Geri-Olympics". The study is unsure about the effects of global warming and other climatic changes. There could be British rice from the "paddy fields of Suffolk" and

a boom time for wine "grown as easily as jam", or rising sea levels reducing us to "ocean-grown" foods and meals like spirulina soup and red algae 'meat-Fox hunting, says the report, will be banned, but there is solace for the re-

dundant red jackets and hounds because "it will be still available on black-mar-The pessimistic analysis envisions ket virtual reality discs".



it appears in the pages of Country Life

THE TABLOID Jilly Cooper's music in the key ofsex



INTERNATIONAL How to beat a dictator. Your guide to people power PAGES 14-15

CASK ALE SINCE 1771

significant shorts

Deadly Scottish virus takes its toll of Forsyth

Something was up. My Scolleagues from the Scottish press were filing into the gallery (taking a break from their day jobs begging on London street curners. presumably), and the benches were filling up with Scots MPs. When the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, took his seat, I knew we were in for another bite of E coli 1057, the virulent food organism that claimed the lives of 16 pensioners just before Christmas. A statement was due.

Some English MPs stayed to listen, Eric Martlew, the Labour member for Carlisle. did so presumably because there is little to stop a virus travelling (like Border raiders before it) the short distance between the Scottish lowlands



Tony Marlow stayed, probably under the impression that

the E in E coli stands for Europe'

and his constituency. Unfortunately for Mr Martlew, he fell under suspicion when a bleep went off in the chamber, followed by a chiming watch. Speaker Betty - a passionate hater of bleepers - frowned and Eric blushed, as the guiltless always do, when falsely accused. Tony Marlow (Rampani Europhobe, Northampton North) also remained sprawled across a bench, probably under the impression that the E in E coli

stands for Europe. The last year has aged Mr Forsyth. When 1996 began he was still an enfant terrible of the right - lacking Michael Portillo's charisma, but making up for it in rat-like cunning and intelligence.
Then came Dunblane (which

consequent Tory failure to understand the public mood on guns and - finally - the E coli outbreak, which he described yesterday as "one of the worst of its sort in the

world". Yesterday, he looked

haggard and middle-aged.

True to form, the interim report of the Pennington Group, chaired by Professor Pennington, had been available to the Government on New Year's Day, but to the Opposition only minutes before the ministerial statement a fortnight later. Also true to form, Mr Forsyth's approach was to take every action outlined in the report; to lock, bolt and armour plate the stable door

now that the horse had

bolted. There would be more

more enforcement of hygiene regulations and better handling of the next crisis.

His shadow, the avian George Robertson, was not placated. Had not the same Professor Pennington asked for funding for research last November and been refused? What advice had the Scottish Health minister (Lord Fraser of Carmyllie) given about the need for public disclosure on affected outlets? "Is this not the classic way this Government treats every crisis it faces - react to events

rather than shaping them and always too little, too late?" But this criticism is universal; under which party have there been no disasters, no tragedies? This is no real-life Dr Finlay plot-line.

← Fog everywhere. Fog up the river, where it flows among green

aits and meadows; fog down the river, where it rolls defiled

among the tiers of shipping, and the waterside pollutions of

a great (and dirty) city. 9 CHARLES DICKENS, BLEAK HOUSE

Tannochbrae, and is traced to the greedy butcher, the complacent health officer and

the tragedy has not received fair coverage simply because it happened in their country, are also wide of the mark. Had 16 Scottish teenagers died, the story would have dominated the London headlines. But no one (except their immediate families) really minds too much if old folk die - living pensioners have a call on our sympathies; dead ones are part of nature's plan. That is why healthy 80year-olds enter hospitals for treatment to in-growing toenails and emerge dead and no one bats an eyelid. Or makes a statement.

a basic lack of hygiene. And Scots perceptions that

to a complaint that has been made against the former North Wales Police Superintendent Gordon Anglesea. We wish to make it clear that the complaint in question does not relate to minors or the untrue allegations of sexual abuse that appeared in television and newspaper reports, including *The Independent on* Sunday, between 1991 and 1993 for which Gordon
Angiesea received £375,000
in libel damages.
We also wish to stress that

no charges have been brought against Mr Anglesea in respect of the complaint under consideration

Gordon

Anglesea

The top item in the

Significant Shorts column in

yesterday's edition referred

Jail ship needed for three years

Prison overcrowding means a floating jail may be needed for three years, the Prison Service said yesterday. It is seeking planning permission to bring one from the US to Portland harbour, Dorset.
Richard Tilt, the Director

General of the Prison Service, said the prison population of England and Wales was approaching 60,000.

He also disclosed that the

country's 900 most dangerous criminals are to be concentrated in 13 prisons which will have extra security. Eight that hold category A inmates will be down-graded. The move follows a recommendation in the report into the Parkhurst break-out which called for the most dangerous inmates to be kept in a smaller number of more secure units. *Jason Bennetto*

Random tests find Semtex

Two taxis based at Heathrow Airport were found to have traces of Semtex explosive by scientists carrying out random tests.

The discovery, which took the scientists by surprise, came during a Home Office study to assess the risk of innocent people becoming terrorist suspects through accidental contamination.

Traces of the Semtex constituent RDX were also found on a luggage handling surface at Heathrow.

The study, reported in the Journal of Forensic Sciences, was conducted by the Defence Evaluation Research Agency's forensic explosives laboratory at Fort Halstead, Kent. A spokesman said: "One possibility is that the taxis had carried a service person or somebody who dealt with explosives in a commercial capacity.

Missing child seen with blond man

A blond-baired young man may have abducted the missing girl Zoe Evans, detectives said last night Fears grew for her after witnesses told police they had seen her talking to him.
A slim, 5ft 7m tall man with

shaven hair was seen walking with Zoe, nine, through a supermarket car park towards the railway station in Warminster, Wiltshire, on Saturday afternoon. She disappeared from her home in the town on Saturday morning. Another witness saw Zoe shortly afterwards on a footpath. A similar man in a black bomber-type jacket with a "Spliffy" motif on the back was behind her.

Superintendent Colin Dixon, head of Wiltshire CID, said Zoe had not appeared to be distressed. But he added: "As every day passes we are growing more concerned." Police urged anyone who saw her with the man to contact. them on 01380 722341. A big search continued.

Break-out kit smuggled in

Equipment was smuggled into to enable six prisoners to break out, Woolwich Crown Court, London, was told yesterday. They cut through two fences and climbed two walks to escape from Whitemoor jail, Cambridgeshire. All were recaptured with the help of a heat-seeking helicopter.

Liam Magee, 48; Liam McCotter, 33; Daniel McNamee, 36; Laim O'Duibhir, 34; Peter Sherry, 31; and Andrew Russell, 34, deny escaping and possessing two guns with intent to endanger life. The hearing continues.

Sperm ruling

Judgment was reserved in the Court of Appeal hearing over the refusal by the High Court to allow Diane Blood to use sperm taken from her dying husband for artificial insemination. The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, said there were "difficult points for consideration".

Ad downed

A complaint about a beer advertisement brought by the European Commission and the European Movement has been upheld. The Advertising Standards Authority said the advertisement for Beck's Bier, which accused Brussels of interfering with the kind of water that could be used to brew it, was misleading.

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Ministers deny spiking Diana's mines campaign

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The Government was forced into an embarrassing retreat yesterday after reports that a minister described the Princess of Wales as a "loose cannon" for backing the Red Cross campaign for a worldwide

ban on landmines . The Ministry of Defence was plunged into a rearguard action after it became clear that the criticism of the Princess, as she posed with children maimed by land mines, threatened to rebound on the Government. There was disarray in government ranks as a former minister, Sir Peter Viggars, compared the Princess's campaign against landmines with Brigitte Bardot's support for stray cats.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, stepped in to make it clear that the Government had no quarrel with the Princess. As the find the culprit, Earl Howe, a juowned up to having lunch with two journalists. But the Earl denied all knowledge of the remarks, reported to have been made over hors d'oeuvres at Simply Nico, an expensive London restaurant used for off-the-record meetings.

Earl Howe, 45, a member of the Curzon banking family, has hitherto avoided publicity. "He is not some-one who would be indiscreet. He has not got a lot to be indiscreet about," said one Lords insider. "He is very mild-mannered and at parties doesn't turn his nose up at talking to minions. He certainly would not be someone who had an axe to grind. He might be a bit inis hard enough to grind axes, even

Meanwhile, Princess Diana, who is in Angola on a four-day visit, brushed aside the criticism and said: "I am only trying to highlight a problem that is going on all around

She flew to Kuito, believed to be the most mined town in the world, 'ing on in London'.

and walked its streets, which have been all but destroyed by the country's civil war. All around were minefields - the Princess was warned not to step off the por-holed tarmac roads and paths.

De-mining experts from Britain's Halo Trust were nearby, painstak-ingly clearing a small area of land. She then flew on to Huambo, where she walked down a narrow corridor cleared through a minefield after donning an armoured

Mr Rifkind told the Commons: "We support a multilateral, universal ban on landmines. That is a policy which has been called for from a number of quarters and we welcome the support given to that policy as does the Red Cross."

The British Red Cross Director General, Mike Whitlam, travelling with the princess, dismissed the controversy as "a bit of mischief ... It would be really awful if this visit went sour because of something go-

Attempting ban would be futile

ng landmines, which injure or kill 65 people every day, would prove more dangerous than regulating them, according to an expert.

There are thought to be more than 110 million worldwide, although stocks of old-style mines, which remain live for up to 100 years, are being replaced with self-destruct devices which de-activate after a certain length of time.

The places worst affected by landmines are Afghanistan. Cambodia, Angola and the former Yugoslavia. For every mine cleared at a cost of £500, 20 more are laid. Last year, 100,000 were removed

and lengthy procedure and in places such as Angola, the clearance rate can be as slow as 3-5 sq km per day. It has been calculated that it would take 4,000 years to

clear the mines in Afghanistan. International pressure led to an agreement last May to ensure future mines contain eight grammes of iron to make them easier to trace, and be either clearly marked, or fit-

ted with a self-destruct device. According to the expert, who asked to remain anonymous, there are two big problems with these "smart" models. The first was reliability. "If you think about the

while 2 million were planted. conditions in which they might have Mine clearance is a dangerous to work - they might have to be dropped from an aeropla mechanism going to work?"

The second was cost. "The cheapest mines are maybe \$3. If you said to the Chinese, for examp 'you must have these things, they'll only add \$15 to the cost', I can tell you what they'd say."

Cheaper, and potentially more reliable possibilities included the use of corrosion or biological decay. Campaigners lobbying for a global ban dismiss the new agreement. It will not be reviewed for five years, in which time an estimated 130,000 people will have suffered fatal or serious injuries.



loggers ran into Dickensian fog in Hyde Park, London, yesterday as weather conditions all over the country deteriorated. Visibility was down to 15 metres in some places; football matches had to be postponed and traffic slowed as roads became hazardous. Photograph: Greg Bos

Labour claims Tories will extend VAT to food

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Labour claimed last night that another Tory government would siap value-added tax on food. adding £10.50 a week to the average family food bill. Tony Blair yesterday told the

Parliamentary Labour Party: "It will mean they will stop at nothing. They will think there

is nothing to stop them ex-tending VAT. Last time, they beind a press conference herald-ing the latest fall in unemploysaid they would not put VAT on

fuel ... But they did just that," Today, Labour will spell out that warning with a new poster campaign. The poster shows a panied by the message: " Next Tory tax? £10.50 a week VAT on food. Enough is enough."

ing the latest fall in unemployment, warning that if Labour were elected it would threaten the increase in employment.

But the Labour attack on tax will be as potent, given the hand breaking an egg, accom- record of the last election campaign, when John Major said he had no plans to extend VAT coverage - before extending it to The Conservatives yesterday domestic fuel and power bills.

a letter from Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he said last month: "I can only reaffirm that I have never promised not to extend the

scope of VAT." The Government's Commons difficulties were aggravated last night when an allparty select committee broke up without reaching a decision on

Today, Labour will produce the balance of power in the cides otherwise. That point was committee that will scrutinise the Finance Bill.

Ministers have argued that in spite of the fact that the Government has no overall majority following the death of Wirral South Tory MP, Barry Porter, it should maintain a majority in the Finance Bill committee because Wirral South counts as a Tory scat until a by-election de-

not agreed by last night's meettion, and the issue will now have to be resolved by a vote of the whole House.

As it would not be in the interests of the Ulster Unionists to back the Government in that vote, the result could be touch-and-go. Surviving the vote, page 8

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NEWSPAPERS

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Millionaire businessman revealed as driving force behind Labour's controversial 'blind' fundraising trust



Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Michael Levy is an almost leg-endary figure in the Jewish community with a reputation as a brilliant fundraiser and successful businessman. A millionaire, he made a fortune from the record business helping to launch the career of a string of artists from Alvin Stardust to Chris Rea, and now drives a Bentley and owns huxurious homes in north London and Israel.

He is also close to Tony Blair and his chief fundraiser. having persuaded the rich to part with hundreds of thousands of pounds in the cause of getting the Labour leader elected.

He was the force behind the "blind trust" set up to allow benefactors to make anonymous donations to Labour. The same trust is now the subject of an investigation by a powerful Commons committee of MPs.

Mr Levy sold his record business in the late 1980s, and devoted much of his time to a string of Jewish charities, particularly as chairman of Jewish Care which is Britain's largest

private welfare organisation. It was a chance meeting with Mr Blair that led to his involvement in Labour fundraising. Mr Blair became a regular tennis partner last summer at Mr Levy's home in Totteridge, north London. and the two have become personal friends.

But inevitably, he has been drawn into controversy. Mr Levy's refuses to discuss anything about his Labour Party role. The blind fund was created when John Smith was leader, but its very secretiveness has rebounded on Labour which traditionally has been much more open in its fundraising efforts than the Tories who refuse to disclose details of any donations. Its existence led to the de-

parture from Labour's fundraising team last year of Henry Drucker, the US-born academic, who had been credited with raising £340m for Oxford University. Mr Drucker wanted to close the blind fund - arguing that it was a Labour "own goal" and would prevent him reaching his own target of £6m - but this view was dismissed by Mr Levy in a stand up row. Mr Levy is one of Labour's



four-strong committee of fundraisers named late last year as Bob Gavron, the millionaire publisher who donated £500,000 to the party, Lord Attenborough and Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary.

As well as raising money for the controversial blind fund. Mr Levy concentrates on raising big amounts for the party, involving cheques of £20,000 or more. Smaller sums are dealt with by

Blair's office. Mr Levy operates from his home in Totteridge. In his mid fifties, he is widely described as personable, with immense charisma and charm,

Whether raising money for Jewish charities, or the Labour Party, Mr Levy adopts the straightforward American method of getting people to but he is also known to have a give, rather than the normally more reserved British style, As



one donor put it: "He has a very blunt approach. How much can I put you down for?" is his standard approach. And it is highly successful."

Indeed, the success of Mr Levy's approach was typified by the story of Leslie Silver, the former Leeds United chairman, who was persuaded to give £25,000 to Labour late last year. Mr Silver was not a member of the Labour Party but had always been sympathetic and gave the money after Mr Levy approached him.

Friends say that Mr Levy, who was brought up in Hackney, east London, has always had left-wing sympathies. However, he only recently became a Labour Party member, having been attracted by Labour's more conservative policies.

He sold his old company, Magnet Records, to Warner Brothers in 1988, and now has new business, M&G (for Michael and Gilda, his wife).

He helped launch the careers of such artists as Alvin Stardust and Chris Rea, and Pete Waterman, the millionaire record producer who masterminded the singing career of the Aus-

tralian soap star Kylie Minogue. Mr Waterman is effusive about his mentor, despite the fact that the two had many blinding rows: "He saw me as a DJ in Coventry and brought me down to London and offered me £100 per week which was more than double what I had been getting. Then a few weeks later, he said he felt guilty about paying me so badly and promptly dou-bled it to £200 He is the greatest businessman I have ever worked for."

Mr Levy gave Mr Waterman money to buy a suit, but then made him get rid of it saying it made him "look like my bank manager". Mr Levy was always the "straight" money man, leav-ing the creative side to producers and recording artists.

Mr Waterman says that Mr Levy was a demanding but re-warding employer: "We had some fabulous rows, but if one stood one's ground, he would back you to the hilt afterwards. It was as if he was testing you.

"If Michael takes an interest in an issue, he will deliver. The Labour Party are lucky to

Cards

US broker to sell babies to British

Health Editor

The Department of Health warned last night that it may take legal action to stop an American "rent-a womb" baby broker recruiting childless cou-ples in the United Kingdom.

This follows advance publicity for a visit to London by Bill Handel, a lawyer and founder of The Center for Surrogate Parenting & Egg Donation in Los Angeles.

Six couples are signed up so far for Mr Handel's weekend seminar at the Hilton Hotel on 1 and 2 February, when he will discuss their going to Los Angeles to procure eggs or surrogate mothers. The centre's psychologist and lawyer will also take part in the discussions.

The total cost of a baby born in the United States to a surrogate mother from the centre is

put at between £30,000-£40,000. Mr Handel says that the semi-The cost of a donor egg for women who can carry a child but do not produce their own eggs is about £6,000, excluding med-

ical, legal, and travel expenses. Health ministers were last night seeking clarification from government lawyers on the Surrogacy Arrangement Act 1985 which forbids a third party other than the intended parents or the surrogate mother from working "on a commercial basis to nentiate or compile information for surrogacy arrangements. Private arrangements between a couple and a woman willing to be a surrogate are not illegal.

Mr Handel could be arrested if he openly touted for business or advertised his services. However, he is publicising the visit without paying for advertising, and a press release issued yesterday by his spokesman Mark Williams is within the law.

nar is for the benefit of six invited childless couples who approached him initially Couples who use Mr Han-

del's agency in Beverly Hills can choose a surrogate mother or egg donor from a list of 250 women whose pictures and details are supplied. The women are picked for their intelligence, looks, and health. US law differs from British law in that surrogate mothers normally have to hand over the babies they give birth to.

Mr Williams said last night: "[Mr Handel] is coming over to meet six couples who have been in touch with him several times over the phone. He is not coming here to walk around with a banner on his head saying 'do you want a baby?' The publicity is to provide information. These people who need children might have tried every other option." He said



Handel: List of 250 mothers

other couples were free to turn up to the seminar if they first contacted the centre in LA and received an invitation

A DoH spokesman said: "We cannot stop couples going overseas to have a surrogate baby. But agents or individuals other than the surrogate mother or intended parents are prevented from

acting on a commercial basis." He added that "we may possibly want to take action but it is too soon to say what that will closely over the next few days.

The television chat show is re-invented - warts and all

Marianne Macdonald Media Correspondent

The latest incarnation of the chat show format was announced by Channel 4 yesterday. The new programme will combine the traditional ingredients of a celebrity presenter and star guests, with fly-on-thewall footage of the backstage production team.

The new show comes as a replacement for the axed Gaby Roslin talk show, which got into difficulties after its presenter refused to plug the films and books of celebrities.

The Show, hosted by the bearlike stand-up comedian Bob Mills, has been given the Gaby Roslin show's old prime-time

slot: 10.30 on Saturday nights.
The programme, which shows the staff trying to put the show together as well as the resulting interviews, was devised by executive producer Jeff

Pope, who sold the idea to guests. The pilot shows Mr Channel 4 after gatecrashing a Pope tearing his hair out as the lunch with one of its commissioning editors.

Mr Pope came up with the idea after working on Richard Littlejohn Live and Uncut and The Late Jonathan Ross. He said: "It was while doing it that I realised that a talk show office is one of the greatest soap operas there

"The traditional chat show is pretty much dead in the water. People have got more sophisticated and this show offers something different."
The show's presenter agreed.

"I think the traditional chat show lost its way in that people have moved on from the Michael Parkinson style of show in which famous people just come on and chat for a certain

length of time." The idea is that The Show's team will provide the entertainment just as must as the star

"She's very young and very free and very single," Mr Pope exprogramme overruns, Mr Mills plotting behind his back about what to wear and one guest, a teacher who sang a song, asking that any record companies which ring up as a result be given her home number.

Nothing will be sacrosanct judging by the pilot, which did Mr Pope and Mr Mills no favours. The host was filmed picking his nose and scratching his armpits, and Mr Pope was shown cursing furiously as he raced to reception because noone had bothered to meet a star

At one point he told the cameraman to stop filming but he refused. Channel 4 are adamant the show will pull no punches; all the staff took the job in the knowledge that no prisoners would be taken.

Expect to see a lot of 25-year-

plained. "We were waiting on an answer for our request to interview Terry Venables and her phone rang and she sounded really pleased. So the cameras zoomed in and she wrote on a post-it note: 'Go away. This is the bloke I picked up last The hour-long programme, starting on 1 February, will al-

ternate between studio interviews backstage footage - a formula that could repeat the success of other warts-and-all documentaries such as The House, a recent series about London's Royal Opera House. Both Mr Pope and Mr Mills,

who resemble a Laurel and Hardy double-act because of their respective weights, acknowledge they may not be flattering themselves. "I look terrible backstage," said Mr old researcher, Rosie Lachetti. Mills.



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Decide whether

Officials are shot in serving eviction order

Alan Murdoch

A county sheriff and two offihouse in Ireland's border coun-

try to serve an eviction order. They were accompanied at the bungalow three miles from the village of Bawnboy by three gardai, who quickly summoned armed colleagues from Cavan. The man responsible for the shootings is believed to possess a number of guns including one legally held firearm. The shootings happened just

after midday, shattering the peace of the serene lakeland country beside the forested slopes of Slieve Rushen mountain west of Ballyconnell. Further shots were heard at

tended as a warning to gardai a German national in his forties

who lived at the house with his elderly mother, who is seriously ill with cancer.

Locals said he was a former cials were shot and wounded employee at a Wild West-style yesterday as they arrived at a ranch adventure centre owned by an Austrian businessman, who is also the legal owner of the farm and was seeking to regain possession of the property. The eviction move followed the failure of efforts by local people to settle the tenancy dis-

> The wounded men shot suffered superficial arm and legs injuries and were later said to be out of danger in hospital. Gardai negotiators were last

night talking to the man by telephone from a neighbouring house. They described the situation as "very volatile". Supt Patrick Browne, in charge of the around 1.30pm, apparently insiege operation, said: "I would appeal to him to come out and let us help him and help his moth-Gardai said the gunman was er get medical attention. This is very traumatic for her too."





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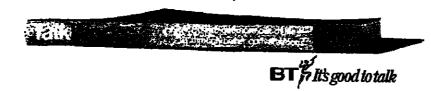
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Liverpool star 'saved goals by instinct'

Michael Streeter

The ex-Liverpool goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, failed to fix two Premier League soccer matches because his instincts as a professional athlete took over and he made a series of "blinding" saves. a court was told vesterday.

The jury at Winchester Crown Court was shown video extracts showing how Grobbelaar, 38, now with Plymouth Argyle, made the saves while United and Norwich City in 1994. Both matches resulted in

David Calvert Smith, QC, said Grobbelaar told his friend Christopher Vincent of his dilemma after being asked to throw matches so that a Far Eastern syndicate could bet safely on the outcomes.

"I'm my own worst enemy on that point because I know I do not like to lose. It's instinctive," Grobbelaar allegedly said. The goalkeeper also told Mr Vincent that he had lost the chance to earn £125,000 from the syndicate because of the 3-3 draw with Manchester United on 4

Grobbelaar, who with former professional footballers John Fashanu and former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers, is accused of corruptly trying to in-fluence football games, told Mr Vincent in a taped interview how he had done his best to affect the Manchester United

"In the second half I made a two blinding saves, because I was diving the wrong way ... it fucking hit my hand," Grobbe-

laar is alleged to have said. The video extract showed the goalkeeper stopping shots from United players Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane. Another extract showed Grobbelaar saving against Norwich City striker Jeremy Goss in a 2-2 draw. Grobbelaar reportedly told Mr

The jury also saw how Grobbelaar failed to save a shot while playing for Southampton in September 1994 against Coventry, a game his side won 3-1. " ... I pushed the ball into the back of the net ... and then we came and steam-

rollered [them]. Zimbabwean international Grobbelaar, former Aston Villa striker Fashanu, 33, and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, 31, all deny giving or receiving money for influencing playing for Liverpool in two the outcome of football matchmatches against Manchester es in a corrupt conspiracy, or using the money as a reward. Dutch-born Segers, 34, Fashanu and Mr Lim deny a similar charge. Grobbelaar denies a separate charge of accepting £2.000 from Mr Vincent as an inducement or reward to influence a match, in a "sting" op-eration carried out by The Sun

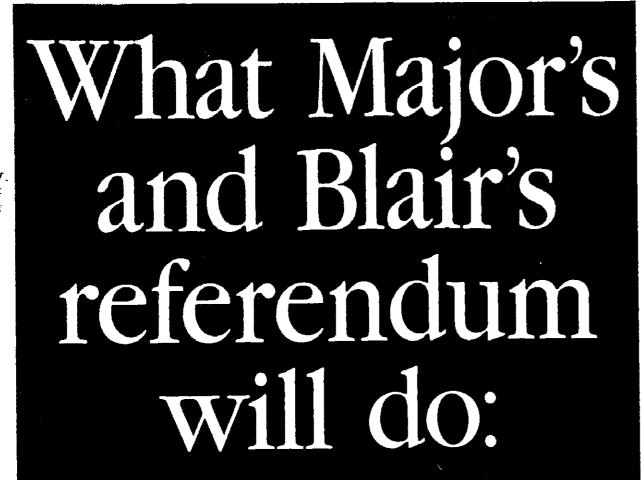
newspaper. Mr Calvert Smith said that during this sting, the newspaper had taped Grobbelaar, in conversation with Mr Vincent, during which his alleged admissions were made. The frequency of telephone calls between Grobbelaar and Mr Lim - allegedly the representative of the betting syndicate - just before and after matches showed the operation of what Mr Calvert Smith described as a "corrupt scheme". The night before the Norwich game there was evidence that Grobbelaar had crept out of the team hotel to meet Mr Lim at the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, London, to receive £500 to "cover expenses".

It was important, to the case, said Mr Calvert Smith, that there was evidence of a cooling off between Lim and Grobbelaar after the goalkeeper's failure to help Liverpool lose against Manchester United and Norwich.

The alleged scandal only came to light after The Sun published its allegations made by Mr Vincent, a former business partner of the goalkeeper,



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Scientists predict CJD deaths for 30 years

Science Editor

New scientific forecasts suggest the true figure for those dying of the "new variant" of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v-CJD) - the human form of emerges of precisely how many "mad cow" disease - will probably lie between 1.000 and 10,000, and may be spread over

But Peter Smith, a member of rule out the worst case," he said.

CID, and also one of the authors of the new research, said yesterday that it could take up to four years before a clear picture people will eventually be affected. "But the longer the numbers of cases arising remains small, then the sooner we can

gested that the number of "suspected" cases of v-CJD was not large, he added. "The signs are encouraging, but it's too soon

to be enormously encouraged." Hours before the research was released vesterday, the Government said that it would more than double the funding for research into BSE and CJD over

ry body on Bovine Spongiform Surveillance Unit, where two of an extra £17m of new funding Encephalopathy (BSE) and the research authors work, sugin the latest science budget to raise the total three-year funding to £30m. Departmental sources insisted last night that the timing was accidental.

Details of some of the research findings, including the forecast of a total death toll of hundreds of people, were revealed exclusively by The Independent in November, after an nal The Lancet. That was subsequently rejected. "At the current stage of knowledge, it's probably too early to predict how v-CID will evolve," said The Lancer's editor, Richard Horton.

per had been rejected. But a revised version is published today in the science jour- required for BSE-contaminated nal Nature. "It has been food to cause v-CJD in humans,

He declined to say why the pa-

Short, Nature's biological sciences editor.

The paper is based on data gathered from the 14 confirmed victims of v-CID in the UK. The authors used statistical techniques and tested them against a series of assumptions, both about the incubation period

cow parts such as brains and. spinal cords in human food.

The forecasts investigate incubation periods of between 10 and 25 years. However, past data from people who have developed CJD from human growth hormone injections suggest it takes at least 13 years to develop the disease, while kuru, a CJD-like

earlier version of the paper had rigorously peer-reviewed, just and the effectiveness - or lack disease found in Papua New been sent to the medical jour-like any other paper, "said Nick of it - of the government's ban Guinea cannibals, took up to 30 in November 1989 on the use of years. Most of the paper's figures give death tolls of below 1,000, with only a few predicting totals

greater than 10,000. The authors said that despite the lack of precision in the answers, the paper was useful because it gave some guidance on when it would be possible to give more definite answers about the future size of any epidemic.

Safety doubts over Sellafield waste plan

Heritage Correspondent

John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, was yesterday urged to re-open the inquiry into plans by nuclearwaste managers for an underground laboratory at Sellafield after it was disclosed that scientists are struggling to make

out a safety case. UK Nirex, the state-owned to build a laboratory 920 metres below Longlands Farm, near Gosforth on the western fringe of the Lake District National Park, and close to from Sellafield, in the hope of proving the site suitable for a £2bn waste

dump 40 feet underground. But a damning internal memwould surround a proposed nuclear dump, modellers need between 10 and 100 times more data. Without more favourable permeability estimates for the "struggle to make a case for the both the council and to FoE.

science at the company suggested in the memo.

British Nuclear Fuel's Sellafield reprocessing plant is only two miles from the site. Enough radioactive waste to cover a football pitch is now stored above ground, two thirds of it at Sellafield.

Mr Gummer is currently studying the report of a fivemonth public inquiry into nuclear-waste company, wants Nirex's plans for the laboratory. He could give his decision at any time, but Cumbria County Council and Friends of the Earth (FoE) yesterday called on the Secretary of State to re-open the inquiry in the light of the leaked memorandum.

"Once again something has come to light that flies in the orandum to senior staff at Nirex face of the contention that indicates that, despite spending everything is going well at the £200m of public money trying site," said council group leadto build up an accurate picture of the underground rock which argued that Nirex had chosen Longlands Farm because of its proximity to the reprocessing plant and because it feared local opposition at geologically

safer sites elsewhere in Britain. The memo was leaked to

site", John Holmes, director for "What it says is that Nirex must either spend hundreds of millions of pounds on more research, cook the books or clear off," said Dr Patrick Green, the senior nuclear campaigner at

> "They must now accept defeat. If they try to manipulate the data they already have, we

> will expose them."
> Nirex scientists are evidently concerned that without more data they cannot reliably model the underground waterflow paths in the fractured volcanic rock. It needs to be capable of containing the radioactive waste for 100,000 years. "There is still a gap between modellers and hydrogeologists" on interpreting data the groundwater pathways, said Mr Holmes.

Nirex, which spent some £10m presenting its case at the inquiry, yesterday played down the memo as a director challenging his team to continue the search for rigorous answers.

Scientific debate was being turned into a "political stunt" said the company. "If the Sellafield site is not scientifically suitable, Nirex has always said



Breath of freedom: Alexandra Doyle loosening her corsets yesterday after a costume show at the National Gallery by students from the Wimbledon School of Art. Ms Doyle was dressed by Nicola Stokes as Mrs Hallett, from Gainsborough's Morning Walk

Photograph: Tom, Pilston

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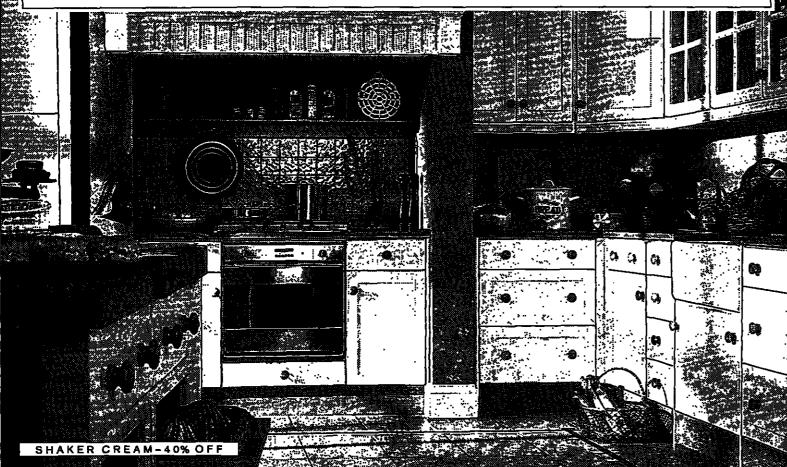
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Magnet Food for thought

Plant energy may power machines of the future

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Scientists in Arizona have tak- sent photovoltaic cells, which en a key step towards creating an artificial plant which could power miniature machines of more than 20 per cent of the sothe future, using the same lar energy falling on them into ocess as photosynthesis

The team at Arizona State University has developed a chemical system which, like plants, takes light energy and transforms it into electrical potential which can be used later to power other processes.

The process of plant photosynthesis is like a solar-powered hydro-electric station," said Tom Moore, at the university's department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. If the team succeeds, it might be able to produce more efficient solar energy systems. Pregenerate electricity directly from the sun, struggle to turn ower. They also cannot store the energy, except at remote

Photosynthesis is a complex yet highly efficient process, converting more than 60 per cent of incoming solar rays into energy. Researchers have tried to mimic this in the laboratory for more than 100 years. It occurs within plants cells, in structures called chloroplasts, which

protons (hydrogen nuclei) in different directions across an internal membrane. This creates an electrical po-

tential across the membrane. That stored energy is then released, and used by another enzvme to create a molecule called adenosine triphosphate (ATP) - the prime source of en-ergy for cell processes. "In a sense, ATP is the gasoline of life," said Professor Moore.

The Arizona system, reported in today's issue of the science journal Nature, uses chemicals to absorb light energy and use it to shuttle both electrons and protons in different directions across a membrane, just as the

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ARY 1997 . THE INDEPENDEN

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

The Museum of London was accused of "glorifying civil disorder" yesterday after it unveiled a reminder in oil of the riot in Trafalgar Square, when police fought hand to hand with anti-poll tax protesters.

Though even-handed in its treatment of both police and rioters, the 12ft by 9ft History Painting, by John Bartlett, is deliberately provocative. The imposition of the poll tax was one of Margaret Thatcher's most unpopular policy decisions and there was a mass campaign of non-payment.

In a traditional epic form, the painting will dominate the museum's London Now gallery which opens next Tuesday explaining the history of the capital since 1945.

It depicts the pitched battle that took place in Trafalgar Square and the surrounding streets on 31 March 1990. Protesters wielding sticks confront police, two on horseback, against a backdrop of Nelson's Column, the National Gallery and burning vehicles.

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John Marshall, Conservative MP for Hendon South, said the painting was to some extent glorifying civil disorder. "These ri-

oters were seeking to alter government policy, not by reason but by force. There is no place for that in a democracy, I would have thought there were much greater episodes in London's history to commemorate rather than events conceived by Scargill's children."

Controversy and conflict are major themes in the gallery, with the redevelopment of Piccadilly and Docklands portrayed alongside newspaper type-setting equipment made redundant, along with its operators, after disputes with the print unions. Outfits and accessories from Mary Quant and Biba illustrate the "swinging Sixties".

Mr Bartlett accepts that History Painting might "upset a lew people" but says it role is to provoke and confront people with an important event of the recent past.

"I think it's impartial. It's cold

in a sense. I deliberately haven't used mannered emotion in the faces. I wanted there to be a seriousness about it."

The 36-year old artist, whose studio is in Bethnal Green, east London, has drawn on great works of the past, including Picasso's Guernica as well as more prosaic sources, such as photographs lent to him by the Metropolitan Police.



صكذا من الاحل

Frozen Britons rush for the sun

David Garfinkel

The recent cold spell has brought a boom in summer holiday bookings with sales for 1997 up 30 per cent on this time last year, travel agents said yesterday.

More than 2.4 million people had made bookings by Christmas compared to 1.8 million the previous year, and the trend is expected to continue.

Lunn Poly, the UK's largest travel agency, said customers suffering from the winter blues had cheered themselves up by booking their place in the sun. Marketing director Peter Povey said: "One of the coldest winters for some time has sent thousands of people rushing to travel agencies to snap up warm, sunny holidays. While Spain is far and away the most popular choice, we're seeing more and more people going further afield."

Thomas Cook said its summer bookings were up by 70 per cent and there had been dramatic growth since December, with a rise in the average amount spent on a holiday. A spokesman said: "As is always the case in the UK, the weather will have a big say and this will ultimately determine our level of performance."

Another of the big operators, Going Places, predicts that January bookings will be 15 per cent up on last year.

But a spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents, said it was more likely that people had learnt from the lessons of last year when many seeking late bargains encountered limited availability. "I am unconvinced the weather was the real cause of the holiday flurry. It is just as much to do with the fact travel agents are offering tremendous incentives to book early.

"Sales are way ahead of this time last year because the brochures were out earlier than ever before, but the amount of holidays on offer has not actually gone up."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

seum should be used as a plat-

serious artist. It is refreshing to

see a serious painter ap-

proaches such a subject. How

people interpret it is their busi-

"It's a good painting from a

form for reflection.

sticks and weapons rise up to the

sky like the armies of Uccello

and David of old," Mr Bartlett

said. As to the his personal view

of the poll tax - the artist

thought it "very unjust" but paid

The museum, which is part-

it none the same.

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*Source: Savings Market, Summer 1996.

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Ashdown turns away from 'tax and spend'

Cofin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Paddy Ashdown yesterday tweaked the Liberal Democrats' election strategy and tried to and Tories who are competing move the party away from its tax-and-spend image.

While putting health and education at the centre of the campaign, he said improvements could be achieved through bettervalue for money rather than tax rises.

The Liberal Democrats' leader unveiled manifesto plans for a national inspectorate for health and social care in the to cut waste and ensure value

That would be coupled with a "tax contract" with the British taxpayers aimed at rebuilding trust in taxation, "reconnecting the tax-payer with the tax-spender, and beginning to raise the level of the debate on tax above the puerile, the posters and the posturing we will see in the weeks ahead", Mr Ash-

down told a meeting last night. Behind his initiative lies a tax-raising image, following its make people pay more tax is

plans for Ip-in-the-pound in-crease to pay for higher edu-said.

Our thinking is that there is a big niche between Labour with each other to avoid mentioning tax." said a senior Liberal Democrat source. "We understand why they think that. We believe it leaves a gaping hole and the party feels

comfortable with it.
We will be saying if you want improvements, it's an old Liberal theme, 19th century Gladstonian value for money. It is important that we are not seen NHS. It would audit spending as a party that throws money at problems.

The shift in strategy to embrace value-for-money initiatives may been seen by the Liberal Democrats' critics as evidence that they are already losing their confidence, with the pre-election campaign only one week old. They have come under withering fire from the Tories for proposing tax in-creases and Alan Milburn. Labour's Treasury spokesman, yesterday accused the Liberal

from the Liberal Democrats' commitment to put an extra £2bn on taxation if necessary. The Liberal Democrats will be campaigning on their commitment to reintroduce free eye tests and dental check-ups through a 5p tobacco tax, which they believe has public support. But Mr Ashdown concen-

trated on ways of achieving better services through valuefor-money initiatives. The Liberal Democrats would ask the National Audit Office and the Audit Commission to check on whether policies are delivering improvements in services, such as the nursery voucher scheme. The audit office presently audits government departments; the commission checks on spending in local government and the

In spite of his commitment to improving public services. Mr Ashdown set a target of reduc-ing public expenditure to below 40 per cent of GDP. He insisted it could be achieved by ful-



Fighting on: John Crozier, one of the Dunblane parents, at yesterday's poster launch in London

Dunblane parents reinforce gun message

Fears that the House of Lords could water down plans to restrict the use of handguns brought a renewed effort vesplan by Liberal Democrats of being "irrespon-strategists to soften the party's sible". "The Liberals' desire to promise to "wage war on maintain pressure on the Govterday by anti-gun protesters to

forward proposals to abolish private ownership of handguns except .22 calibre sports weapons. This fell short of the demands by the Dumblane par-

ues to be heard.

Following the report by Lord for a complete ban, and yes-Cullen into the Dunblane terday a new poster campaign shootings, the Government put was unveiled in London to ensure that their message contin-

In advance of tonight's House of Lords debate on the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, ents and the Snowdrop Appeal the two posters are designed to

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gun makes the same size hole as a magnum", over a picture of an open grave. The other shows a picture of the assassinated US presidential candidate, Robert Kennedy, with the message:

If a .22 is less deadly, then why isn't he less dead?" The fears of the anti-gun or-ganisation, the Gun Control SONY PLAYSTATION PLUS 4 TOP TITLE GAMES INCLUDING FORMULA 1

Network, are based, they claim, on what happened after the Hungerford massacre in 1987. As the main organiser of the poster campaign, and given full support by other groups like the Snowdrop petitioners, Gil Marto ensure the Lords do not shall-Andrews of the network

said: "The Government's new Firearms Bill is already weakAnd we have to ensure that it is not weakened further by the Lords.

Dunblane parents Mick North, Martyn Dunn, John Crozier, Jenny Hazel and Less Morton joined a cross-party gathering of MPs to unveil the poster.

Tony Hill, whose daughter Sandra was killed by Michael Ryan at Hungerford, said:

"There are nine pages of amendments in the Lords ... "After Hungerford we thought there would be real changes. But it was eventually watered down. We must try undermine the Government's plans yet again or there will be repeat tragedy.

Tories forced ⁹ to mobilise as pairing halts

The Government's 35-vote majority for the second reading of the Finance Bill on Tuesday night illustrates the problem being created for John Major by Labour's current policy of non-

co-operation. Because Labour is refusing to "pair" off absent Tories, in protest against Government missing, along with Northern cheating before Christmas, Ireland's four Social Democthe Prime Minister and Ian ratic and Labour Party MPs, the Lang, President of the Board of Trade, accelerated their return from Pakistan to be back in good time for Tuesday's 10pm

As a precaution against a Labour ambush, there were only four Conservative MPs absent from the vote - through illness - while Labour knew they would have 15 absentees.

But the Government could not count on that Labour deficit, and Labour Chief Whip Donald Dewar said yesterday: "They are having to keep large numbers of Members of Parliament here because they cannot tell on any particular vote how many will be needed to get their business through,

"Meanwhile, we can release colleagues to campaign in the country to work for victory in the constituencies.

"It means unusually large majorities for the Government on occasion. We welcome that. Their troops have been tied to Westminster, and this will continue to be the case in the runup to the election."

Although the Government has no majority at all in the Commons, it won Tuesday night's vote so comfortably not only because of the disproportionate number of Labour absentees, but because of the erratic behaviour of the minority parties - another uncertainty that hangs over the Government whips office.

that the 319 Conserva present were supported by five Ulster Unionists - but another four Ulster Unionists did

On the other side of the House, the 257 Labour MPs present were joined by 25 Liberal Democrats and seven nationalists, but one Liberal Democrat, Alex Carlile, was three Democratic Unionists, Scottish Nationalist Roseanna Cunningham, and Robert McCartney, the independent

Mr Dewar warned yesterday: While non-co-operation continues, it will require discipline. "When we can spring a sur-

prise we will do so, but we will not play silly games. Tory back-bench morale is already low. We intend to lower it still further." said Mr Dewar.

But a game of cat-and-mouse is being played in the run-up to the election, and it is not being played by Labour alone. While the Prime Minister

told reporters in Pakistan on Tuesday that he wanted to play the election timing long – giv-ing a teasing hint of a preference for 1 May – the Conservatives appear to be playing it very short

Labour said yesterday that they and the Conservatives were allowed two party political broadcasts over the next three months, in the run-up to a possible election, and Labour would be running one today and another in March.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, had decided to run one on 21 January - and the second on 13 February.

According to Labour, that suggested ground-work preparation for a possible election in March or early April. The guessing-game continues.



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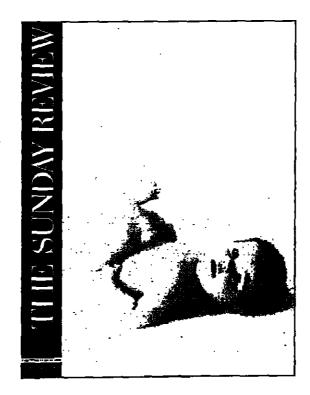
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Food poisoning report urges shop licences

The interim findings of the inquiry into the E. coli food poi-16 people urges more govern-ment funding for research into the bacterium, which poses a growing threat to food safety.

In his report, Professor Hugh Pennington, who two years ago described the spread of E. coli 0157 as a "time-bomb waiting to go off", highlights the need for scientific investigation of outbreaks in cattle and transfer to the human food chain.

Professor Pennington also outlines several measures to prevent similar outbreaks to that in Lanarkshire last November and December, which is on record as the second worst food poisoning episode worldwide, affecting about 400 people.

The report calls on the Scottish Office to review the guidelines relating to the investigation and control of food poisoning outbreaks and says the law should be changed to permit the introduction of selective licensing for food premises.

It recommends the physical

raw and cooked meat products lieved to be spread in under-using separate counters, equip-cooked beef, and milk and ment and staff.

The report appears less than week after John Barr, the soning in Scotland which killed butcher from Wishaw at the centre of the outbreak, appeared at Hamilton Sheriff Court charged with culpable and reckless conduct over the alleged supply of meat conta-minated with E. coli 0157.

Sickness and death among 78 pensioners who attended a lunch at the Old Parish Church in Wishaw first alerted the authorities to the outbreak. The gravy in meat pies served at the lunch was subsequently found to be infected.

Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, ordered the inquiry into the Lanarkshire outbreak shortly after, and Protessor Pennington, a leading authority on the bacterium at the Department of Microbiology at Aberdeen University, was asked to lead the team of experts. Mr Forsyth who announced the interim findings in a Commons statement yesterday, accepted many of Professor Pennington's recommendations.

The bacterium was unknown separation, within premises, of before 1982 but is now be-

cheese from cows, sheep or goats. Some public health experts have been warning of the dangers of E. coli 0157 since the early 1990s, when it became apparent that the number of cases was increasing. The Chief Medical Officer's report for 1995 confirms there were 792 isolations of E. coli 0157 in 1995 in England and Wales - a 93 per

The dramatic increase is due in part to better surveillance and more testing but more cases are occurring too. Scotland has one of the highest incidences in the world but no one knows why. The previous largest outbreak was in West Lothian in 1994 when 100 people were infected. Scientists traced the source to

E. coli 0157 – also known as VTEC, for verocytotoxin-pro-ducing Escherichia coli - releases a poison, verocytotoxin, which causes bloody diarrhoea, severe cramps and vomiting. Up to 30 per cent of those infected may suffer kidney problems, and up to 10 per cent - children and the elderly or sick are most



cast iron wheel. The mill has been in Mr George's family for 300 years and is the oldest working corn mill in the country Photograph: Rob Stratton

Jealous lover 'abducted and murdered girl'

The mother of five-year-old heard that Ms Mahon arrived Rosemary McCann fought back home after midnight. The babytears in court yesterday as she was shown the pyjama top her to visit a neighbour a few doors daughter was wearing on the night she was allegedly snatched from her bed, raped and mur-

Josie Mahon, 27, identified the blue-and-white top with its "Thomas the Tank Engine" design as the one she had dressed Rosemary in before leaving her focated her. with babysitters on the night before the little girl disappeared.

Ms Mahon was visibly upset as she quickly glanced at the top before turning away in the witness box at Manchester Crown Court, where her former boyfriend Andrew Pountley, 32, is accused of Rosemary's

The Crown alleges that Mr Pountley, of Kew Road, Oldham, a pub disc jockey, argued with Miss Mahon that evening and threatened to kill her.

It is claimed that he took a taxi to Ms Mahon's home in Kipling Road in the town.

Rosemary had been left six-year-old brother. The court

sitters left but Ms Mahon went away, leaving the children with the front door closed but not locked.

The Crown alleges that Mr Pountley took Rosemary from her bed in the early hours and took her to his own home where he then raped and suf-

Mr Pountley pleads not guilty to the abduction, rape and murder of the little girl a year ago. Ms Mahon, a mother of three, told the court how she

met Mr Pountley nearly three years ago and moved into his home. But she said he became jealous of her. "He would behave very vio-

lently. There were quite a few arguments. He would always be accusing me of looking at men in pubs and flirting," said Ms Mahon.

"I left because he got too violent altogether." She said they later restarted

their relationship and he would sleeping alone there with her stay at her home sometimes two,

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DAILY POEM The Sadness of Megalomania

A thousand thousand people know my name.

By Michael Glover

Ten thousand thousand use it every day. A million children sing it in the streets. A hundred widows weep my life away. The banker's moistened thumbs caress my face. The clouds arrange themselves into my shape. The rivers babble of my deeds and dreams The monkey chatters of me in his cage. The locomotive sighs for my lost loves. God says: beside this man, I am mere stone and wood.

All arrows aim to pierce my heart's desire. My armies march in flames. I am their fire. This poem, described by its author as "about a Milosevic figure", comes from Michael Glover's new collection A Small Modicium

of Folly, published by Dagger Press (£3.50) at 70 Dagger Lane, West Bromwich B71 4BS. Michael Glover will be reading at

the Old Operating Theatre, Guy's Hospital, London SE1, at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 January.

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Yeltsin illness Moi adviser developed after 'banya'

Boris Yeltsin is suffering from double pneumonia caught after taking a Russian scheduled for later this "banya", or steam bath, the Kremlin's top doctor, Sergei Mironov, said. The physician's remarks confirmed what was widely suspected - that the 65-yearold President's condition was significantly worse than the Kremlin at first stated. Mr Yeltsin's political opponents continued to press for his removal on the grounds he is too ill to carry out his duties.

Phil Reeves - Moscow

Guerrillas agree to talks

Marxist Tupac Amaru guerrillas holding 74 hostages at the Japanese embassy in Lima, Peru. accepted a government proposal to set up a joint Vatican, International Red Cross and diplomatic negotiating commission. The guerrilla leader Nestor

Ceroa insisted on a Guarantor Commission which would aim to win the freedom of all hostages and arrange safe passage out of the building for the 20 or so guerrillas. Phil Davison -

rejoins cabinet in reshuffle

A government reshuffle was announced by Kenyan which developed from a case President Daniel arap Moi of acute bronchitis, probably in the run-up to elections year. Most significant of the changes is the return to the cabinet of Nicholas Biwott five years after being dropped, following allegations of corruption and involvement in the 1990 murder of a former foreign

minister. Mr Biwott has

long been a friend and

adviser to President Moi. A negative response to his nomination is expected from foreign donors who have been pressing the government to clamp down on corruption.

David Orr - Nairobi

Bulgaria election offer

A possible resolution of Bulgaria's political crisis appeared to be in the offing as the ruling Socialist Party offered to hold fresh elections by the end of the year, 12 months ahead of schedule. Opposition leaders, who accuse the Socialists of ruining the country's economy and who have organised daily protests against them, said they were ready to discuss the offer. Adrian Bridge

Alpine sun gives paraglider a lift



A paraglider floating above the fog from the Gaisberg mountain near Salzberg, benefiting from the clear blue skies and sunshine common at high altitude in Austria

Photograph: Franz Neumayr/Reuters



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country Photograph: Rob Stratte

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There's a great deal going on

EU fleshes out how 'flexibility' would work

Sarah Helm Brussels

two confidential European Union reports show that Britain's partners have ambitions to integrate policies in areas as far-reaching as taxation, social security, policing and

immigration. A new "flexibility chapter" in the Amsterdam treaty, due to be finalised in June, should create powers for countries to integrate in these areas, without a British veto, France and Germany are arguing.

The reports produce for the first time concrete ideas about how the hitherto nebulous concept of "flexibility" would work in EU decision-making. In effect, it would allow groups of member states to share powers without the rest.

France and Germany believe "flexibility" is the key to final-ising a new EU treaty at Amsterdam. They believe that flexibility is vital if progress towards integration is to continue without British opposition. They also believe it is vital if the EU is to work effectively once new member states from central and eastern Europe have joined. Furthermore France and

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Germany want "flexible" decision making to apply to Economic and Monetary Union, according to one of the reports.

The states want to strengthen indirect tax rules, and start to harmonise other tax policies after the launch of the single currency. They also want powers to enable them to harmonise Integration proposals

EC plans include: No veto on decisions about which countries can go ahead. Decisions to be taken by qualified majority.

Powers to apply flexible

power sharing to most area of policy. Leaves open the possibility of flexibility in monetary union and the single market Areas to be specifically excluded from the flexibility plan should be the common fisheries policy, commercial policy, transport, competition and co-

hesion policies.

Countries which do not join in a power-sharing arrangement at first, should be allowed to do so later. Their interests must not be affected, and costs of the policy must be born only. by countries participating.

other areas of tax and social security policy once the single currency is up and running.

The European Commission is opposed to more power sharing in areas of macro-economic policy. The Maastricht treaty makes clear that member states inside a single currency should be free to set their own policies on tax and social security, while aspiring to meet overall economic convergence criteria. The majority of countries are also keen to ensure that a "hard core" share immigration, justice and environment policies.

The second set of proposals, prepared by the commission and to be discussed in Brussels today, sets out what a "flexible".

"multi-speed" Europe would look like. The commission report is more cautious about listing areas to which flexibility should be applied. It would be most use in areas where unanimity currently applies.

Defence, armaments policy, lum policy, are the most frequent areas evoked and would clearly be "possible" candidates

for flexibility, says the report. These are largely policies which are discussed under the so-called second and third "pillars" of the EU - governed by loose inter-governmental cooperation rather than strict community law. It would therefore be easier to set up flexible power-sharing in these areas than under the "first pillar" which governs such core policy areas as the single market and monetary union.

The commission is in principle against multi-speed powersharing in the first pillar. However, its report accepts that member states will push for flexibility in these areas.

Senior officials say "down the road" they accept that member states will want "flexibility" to pool powers in areas of economic policy-making such as taxation and social security. "If flexibility is not done inside the treaty it will be done outside," says the commission report, in a tacit acknowledgement that France and Germany are determined to increase integration even if deal cannot be done at Amsterdam.

Patten to be questioned in HK immigration scandal

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

For the first time in Hong Kong's history the Governor, Chris Patten, is to be summoned before a Legislative Council inquiry. This follows his administration's vain attempt to stem the growing scandal over the abrupt removal of Lawrence Leung, the head of the colony's immigration department

At a hearing before a special Legislative Council committee yesterday, Lam Woon-kwong, the Secretary for the Civil Service, ended an official silence and claimed that Mr Leung had to go because he was guilty of serious financial irregularities.

Mr Lam also added a new term to the lexicon of official mendacity by admitting that his previous statements, alleging that Mr Leung had resigned for "personal reasons", also forced to admit that he had

withheld documents from the saying he had no personal knowllegislative inquiry.

Mr Lam tried to persuade the inquiry that the reasons for Mr Leung's departure related to his failure to disclose a number of business interests. He is alleged to have formed an advertising company in China while heading a department "dealing with a lot of immigration matters with China". He also, allegedly, failed to disclose holdings in a company with assets of some £25m, and in another owned jointly with a

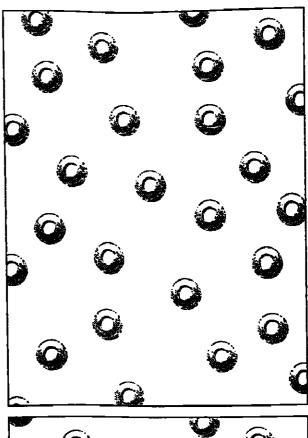
prominent pro-Peking legislator. Mr Leung's business interests and alleged failure to repay a government housing loan were unearthed during a corruption inquiry and in an integrity vetting investigation by the police which he failed to pass.

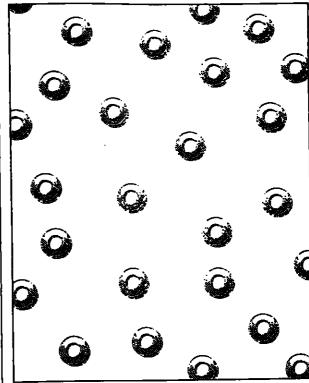
Invited to categorically deny that there had been political motives behind the government's loss of trust in Mr Leung, Mr amounted to a "narrow interpretation of the truth". He was reports in *The Independent* and

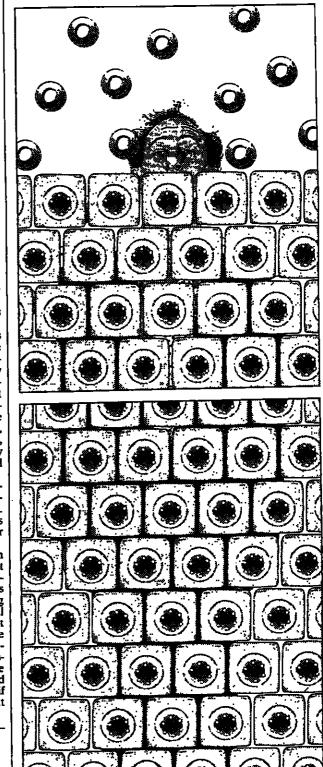
edge of these matters, leaving it open to question whether others, including Mr Patten, were aware

of investigations into Mr Leung. However Mr Lam claimed that the "security and integrity" of the immigration department was "not compromised, as far as we know". Allegations have been made that Mr Leung disclosed names of people holding British passports issued under the secret British Nationality Scheme which allows certain key job holders to gain British citizenship in Hong Kong. China fiercely opposes the scheme and is keen to know who has benefited from it.

Legislators were concerned by the gaping holes in Mr Lam's version of events. He failed, for example, to explain why it took the government more than two months to act after the end of the investigation and why. when it did, it became so urgent for Mr Leung to leave office









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Tide begins to turn on strikers in South Korea

Richard Lloyd Parry

As thousands of demonstrators fought with riot police in central Seoul yesterday, the South Korean government invoked the bogeyman of communist infiltration in apparent preparation for a political crackdown against striking delayed," a statement by the Cabinet trade unionists.

On the second day of a nationwide general stoppage, the tide appeared to be turning against the strikers who have been staging intermittent actions for three weeks in protest against legslation which removes job security and denies the freedom to form unions.

pro-union demonstrators was broken up by police firing tear-gas canisters. but many workers ignored the strike call, and government officials hinted that union organisers are communists inspired by the Stalinist regime of

"North Korea is agitating workers to topple the government," said Choi Byung Kook, a public prosecutor, at a televised news conference. "If the unrest drags on it will give North Korea tries and in public transport, the strikes an opportunity for revolutionary struggle. If the workers do not stop their illegal strikes immediately, the gov-ernment will act in a firm and resolute way to protect the national security."

The first of the union leaders was arrested late on Tuesday night, and police have warrants for 19 others, including seven who are camping in the grounds of Myongdong cathedral in Seoul. Thousands of riot police have sealed off the area every evening this week and there have been frequent and sometimes violent standoffs with telecommunications equipment. But, demonstrators, including students, housewives and white-collar workers,

as well as striking union members.

The strike leaders have promised to continue their action until the government withdraws revisions to the labour laws, passed in secret at a dawn session of the National Assembly on 88 bus companies came out and the ed by followers armed with iron bars, to a union estimate of 630,000.

and police have so far refrained from enforcing arrest warrants, Yesterday, however, at a cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Lee Soo Sung. the government indicated that enough was enough. "The government's position [is] that the arrest of the lead-Office announced, "even with some egative effects and repercussions.

This hard-line approach has been extended to delegates from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, who are in Seoul in sup-port of their Korean counterparts. The enies the freedom to form unions.

A march by tens of thousands of

British trade unionists, was visited by police on Monday night and warned

that their activities were illegal. The government estimates that production losses during the three-week strike have cost the country \$2.4bn (£1.5bn) in lost production, principally heavy industries like shipbuilding where the unions are strongest.

Yesterday, the Korean won sank to its lowest point for six years, at less than 850 to the dollar. But in service indushave been largely symbolic, partly in order to avoid alienating the public, and partly due to a poor turnout.

On Tuesday, the officially approved Federation of Korean Trade Unions The South Korean government last began a 36-hour stoppage, and was joined yesterday by its former rival, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, an illegal and traditionally more militant body. The strike leaders had been predicting a turnout of 1 million, and troops had been moapart from a slight shortage of taxis, the two-day strike has made virtual-

ly no difference to daily life in Seoul. In the south-east city of Ulsan, nonunion workers bulldozed through barricades to enter the Hyundai motor factory. But only three of Seoul's



Desperate measures: Striking workers and students try to kick away tear-gas canisters during a clash with riot police in Seoul yesterday

Foreign delegates accused of threat to public order

Richard Lloyd Parry

night served restriction orders on a group of visiting trade unionists, ac-cusing them of jeopardising public

Four representatives of the In-ternational Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), including two from Britain, were visited by po-lice and warned that they would be deported if they continued to meet Korean trade unionists and attend

protest rallies.

Members of the delegation accused the government of intimidation, and expressed fears that a second mission, lead by the former head of the Amalgamated Engi-Boxing Day. Their cluster of tents, at the rear of the brick cathedral, is guarder of the brick cathedral of the br Seoul early next week.

The confederation, a Brusselsbased umbrella group of 195 unions in 136 countries, has been sternly critical of Korea's revised labour law. The delegation has attended labour rallies and held highly publicised meetings with Kwon Young Kil, the head of the illegal Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU).

A statement issued by the ICFTU calls on the government to withdraw the legislation, cancel 20 warrants is-sued against KCTU members, and open a dialogue with its leaders with a view to legalising the union and its

Late on Monday might, police visited the group in their hotel and warned that it was illegal for foreigners to visit and express support for the Korean strikers. On Tuesday, our business," said the delegation's and the Trades Unions Confedera-according to Guy Ryder, the British leader, Takashi Izumi. Marcello tion will also be present.

director of the ICFTU's Geneva office, they were followed around Seoul by men in a black car. Last night each was presented with a restriction order.

"Your intervention to [sic] Kore-an workers strike would result in disturbing public peace and order, and the grave interests of the Republic of Korea, therefore such behaviour should be forbidden in accordance with Article 22 of the Korean Immigration Law," reads the document, issued in the name of the justice min-ister. "Additionally, if you violate above measures from now on, you are informed that you will be de-ported by Article 46-8 of the law."

"In my trade union career I have never experienced this kind of government interference in our stay and

Malentacchi, of the International Metalworkers' Federation, accused the government of "intimidation".

A report will be submitted by the ICFTU to the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a Paris-based grouping of rich nations, which will convene a committee to consider the Korean trade union situation next week. When Seoul joined the OECD in December, it gave undertakings to allow its wokers freedom of association which, according to the delegation, have been violated by the new labour law.

London - The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions will hold a demonstration today outside the Korean Embassy in London. Representatives of Amnesty International



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rade unionists

Settlers take a grim view of Hebron deal

Phrick Cockburn

Inheir headquarters in Hebron Iseli settlers were grimly listeing to news of the accord aleed earlier in the day beten Israel and the Palestinias a result of which 80 per cit of the city will come under Hestinian control within the American pressure was too

at." said Noam Arnon, a setr leader, explaining how Benmin Netanyahu, the Israeli ime minister, had agreed to uch the same accord on Heron as he had previously deounced. "Netanyahu wrote a ook that said there should be c surrender to terrorism, and kv he signed an agreement with rmonst group," complained V Arnon, who leads the 500 lwish settlers who live among 1),000 Palestinians in Hebron. In the heavy rain outside the stler enclave Palestinians siwed few signs of jubilation. le Isracli redeployment has e to take place and they live n he part of the city which stays uler Israeli control. "There ny be a different mood when veake over the Israeli military nedquarters," said a bystader, pointing to an old

Brish colonial fortress, arly yesterday morning at therez crossing point between Gra and Israel, after lastmitte discussions between Mr Némyahu and Yasser Arafat, thealestinian leader, the protoli on Hebron was finally agled. Delayed, first by Palestime suicide bombers and then byle Israeli election, the Israeli arly will depart within 10 days. he accord says that by the er of next week Hebron will

armed with 100 rifles and 200 pistols. Close to settler enclaves the police will carry only pistols. Hills overlooking set-tlers houses will be patrolled by a joint Israeli-Palestinian force. The Palestinian wholesale market and a main road will be reopened. A joint rapid reaction force will be established.

None of this differs much from the 1995 agreement. An Israeli demand for the right to -emptive entry into Pales-

6 Netanyahu committed himself to give away the Jewish homeland. He gets zero from Arafat 9

tinian areas has been dropped. Mr Arafat had made his biggest concessions when he agreed to the partition of the city over a year ago. The Hebron protocol was agreed over a week ago and the point at issue was the three-stage Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. This is now to be finished by the middle of next year. By yesterday afternoon the extent of the withdrawal was creating fresh divisions. The Palestinians insist that Israel must leave 90 per cent of the West Bank and denies that the Israeli government can claim 50 per cent as "military locations". Mr Netanyahu was expected

cabinet to back the accord, but some ministers reject it. Benjamin Begin, the Science Minister and son of a former prime minister, angrily told Israeli army radio: "The prime minister committed himself to give away sections of the Jewish homeland. He gets zero from Arafut." He was said to have shouted at Mr Netanyahu during the cabinet meeting at which 7 out of 18 ministers were expected to vote against the agreement. The dispute over the protocol may force a realignment on the Israeli right, the hard core breaking with Mr Ne-tanyahu for giving up part of the Land of Israel.

In addition to the agreement on Hebron Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat agreed on a threepage "Note For The Record" in which both sides get less than they would have liked. Palestinian demands such as safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank as well as construction of a Palestinian airport and port at Gaza will be discussed in future. It does not appear that there is any real change on the release of 3,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel had demanded the extradition of Palestinians in autonomous areas who killed Israelis, but Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian negotiator, said yesterday that they would, as before, be tried in Palestinian courts. Overall the accord differs little from, the Interim accord signed by Labour.

"I'm a very happy man to-day," said Yossi Beilin, the architect of the peace accords. "I would like to welcome Ne tanyahu to the Oslo club. The process is the only game in



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Final protocol: The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, passes the line to electric plant which provides 80

Rebel unity spurs Sudan call to arms

David Orr

The Sudanese government is mobilising its forces to retake frontier towns and army garrisons recently captured by rebel forces in the east of Sudan.

Dismissed by the Islamistdominated regime in Khartoum as "Ethiopian aggression", the rebel attacks constitute the first major combined operation by northern and southern opponents of President Omar

Among those being called to arms are students at Khartoum University which has been closed to allow enlistment in paramilitary units of the Popular Defence Force (PDF), Sudan has an active military force of about \$9,000 as well as about 15,000 PDF members.

Scores of mujahedin [holy fighters] are now hurrying towards the theatre of operation in order to defend the eastern front and teach the aggressors and the traitors a lesson they will never forget." Sudanese radio quoted General Bashir as

saving.
The offensive along the Ethiopian border was launched by the combined forces of the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which has its headquarters in Eritrea. Two of the towns which fell, Kurmuk and Qasan, lie about 350 miles south-east of the capital. In addition to attacking army garrisons, the insurgents have also advanced to within striking distance of the Damazin hydro-Photograph: AP per cent of Khartoum's power.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to resist the imposition of Islam by the Arab north on the Christian and animist south. Sudanese government allegations of Ethiopian involvement in the recent attacks have been at least partially supported by independent re-ports of artillery shelling of Kurmuk and Qasan from inside

Ethiopian territory. Though once friendly towards Khartoum, Ethiopia's current government shifted allegiances as evidence emerged of Sudan's sponsorship of terrorism in the region.

Ethiopia has denied any part in the attacks, saying the capture of the towns was the work of the SPLA alone.

The Khartoum regime has said Sudan will help 1.3 million Ethiopian and Entrean refugees in the country take up arms against Sudan's easternmost neighbours. Khartoum stands accused by Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda of using force to export its brand of Islamic fundamentalism abroad.

The real question is whether the fighting marks a turningpoint in the wavering fortunes of the opposition forces or just one more false alarm. The NDA was predicting that Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government would fall last summer after an uprising across northern Sudan. However, such an uprising failed to materialise.

However, the muted response to this week's government-sponsored demonstrations in Khartoum indicate that the populace is tiring of the empty promises and continued war-

Priotograph: Reusublic order



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gurranteed to July 47, by which

Serbs fear new poll tricks

eve Crawshaw

undreds of riot police again led up in the centre of Belade yesterday, as popular monstrations against the Seran regime continued. The pposition is wary that Sloboan Milosevic is trying to trap e opposition into an early reeat from its sustained oppo-ition to the regime. There ere several signs yesterday hat the wariness is justified. The Belgrade electoral comnission ruled on Tuesday that he elections, which the oppoitionwon in November, were ralid fter all. The elections had

position leaders still fear further day that its report on the elections would only be sent to the parties today, and that parties can appeal within 48 hours af-

Until yesterday, the opposi-tion had assumed that the 48hour period of leave to appeal would end, not begin, today. In short, there is still room for further shenanigans.

The students, who have spearheaded the protests since the the city centre.

been officially ruled invalid, beginning, had an additional because the opposition won by reason to be furious. The harda landslide. Despite this week's line rector of Belgrade Uniapparently historic retreat, op-position leaders still fear further versity, Dragutin Velickovic, yesterday retained his position official tricks. The electoral after a long crisis meeting - de-commission announced yester-spite earlier official promises that he would be removed.

For the students, the issue of the hated Mr Velickovic has been crucial, since the start of the demonstrations in November - sharing almost equal billing with the question of the election results. The results of yesterday's meeting enraged the students, thousands of whom gathered outside the main university building in

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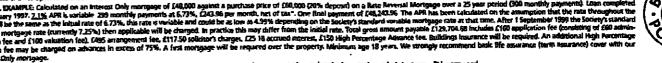
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Ten simple steps for the people to

From Berlin to Belgrade, protestors have learnt how to form mass movements, mobilise support and fight back against tyranny. Independent writers analyse the key techniques

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Don't kid yourself that people are prepared to revolt in large numbers for democracy alone. The concept is too abstract, especially in societies with little experience of what it means.

To succeed, you have to tap into more tangible feelings of discontent and offer very basic promises of improvement. Serbians are not generally too bothered by the autocratic, corrupt nature of Milosevic's regime; rather, they are at the end of their economic rope and deeply disillusioned at the way every promise Milosevic made has been broken or betrayed.

When they bang on their pots and pans to drown out the state television news every evening, they are basically giving their ver-sion of Peter Finch in Network: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!"



First wave: A Serb opposition supporter in Belgrade

HAVE A GOOD TIME

All the most successful movements have been superb at using entertaining ideas to get people smiling and keep them that way, even when the going gets tough.

Solidarity has to be a cheerful business. In Prague, people rang little bells and jan-gled keys. In Romania, they cut the holes out of the flag. In Serbia, they do everything from blocking the traffic to banging pots and pans during the television news.

Co-opt the best designers, the most popular actors, the funniest joke-writers. Badges or clothing with subversive messages become enormously popular in Poland, they sold T-shirts saying "I am an anti-socialist element".

In general, it should be remembered that every successful revolution has at least half a dozen brilliant badges to be re-

TAKE IT EASY

Keep your energy up. Serbia's students have been very smart in avoiding too many allnighters and pacing themselves. Dictators, and political leaders in general, never get tired (as Italy's Giulio Andreotti once said, "power tires only those who do not have it"), and they are infinitely vigilant and patient (as Francois Mitterrand once said, "like

cats, we sleep with one eye open"), so flagging can be fatal.

And don't ask people to do very much. The best East German demonstrations were in Leipzig, where you could attend a weekly church service, walk down the road, then go home. Like going to an exercise class, but much more fun. Sleepovers can be enormously effective (as in Moscow during the 1991 coup, or in the parliaments of the Baltic Shout: A student voices states, earlier that year), but they are best suited for defending a fragile democracy.



protest again Milosevic

'On the road price based on manufacturer's recommended retail price, YATat D

WATCH TV

Keep the media spotlight on you the Baltic republic of Estonia of the most astonishing momen the peaceful revolution was television debate, organised by and pathetic producer. TV news is and especially for all those stuck of an the provinces. Foreign mediafre even more important. Be ameral to foreign journalists, and ind spokesmen who speak foreignanguages. Foreign journalists areasy so court them, even do their worfor them. East Timorese activists rumto embassies to seek asylum during ternational summits - foreign cuespondents love to get a real storas a break from boring briefings. he more interested newsdesks get he more information will be beared. back into the country via foreigradio, and these days in a surpring number of countries via satein TV. English-language slogans a good play on TV and in photograps Think about pictures: Kora demonstrators burl lit newspaper police in lieu of petrol bombs - u look great but do no real dama

BE NICE

The regime will blame you for being terrorists, bombers, madmen, everything. You must give them the minimum of ammunition, so that they, not you, will look dodgy when they make the accusations.

Discourage violent or anti-democratic rhetoric. Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic's wife. Dana, appeared early on in the crisis raving about blasting the way to victory. She has been sent to media Coventry

When a bomb explodes at a pro-establishment building or organisation – as happened in elgrade recently – it will be ob-

vious to everybody that this is just another provocation by the regime. If they get violent, it just strengthens your hand.

As one previously cautious Czech said, after going on a demonstration in 1989 and being beaten up: "As I lay on the ground, I felt free." In general. good behaviour wins you points. During a 1989 strike in Ukraine, marshals made sure that miners did not step in the rose beds.

If you are in a country where people like to get drunk, you could try banning alcohol altogether, as, for example, happened in Gdansk when Solidarity was first formed in 1980.



Fist of power: taking cover from gunshots in Bucharest

HEROES

The revolutionary hero is a cliche - and one that needs to be carefully considered. On the one hand, a hero, or a figurehead, can be a real asset, especially if they have international profile. It helps to make the movement more than just a group of faceless, nameless people. Think of Aung San Suu Kyi, Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel. The international media knows their faces, their names, their history. Indonesia's Megwati Sukarnoputri and the Philippines' Cory Aquino are no great political thinkers – but their lineage gives them respect and legitimacy and their

against military governments which no man can have. It is much harder to arrest or execute a woman than a man.

But there comes a time when you need to say: it isn't your movement at all. In pcople's revolutions, the leader - the figurehead - is nothing, by comparison with the brave but undirectable people who have put themselves on the line. Unless you are Mandela or Havel, don't think you're that special. In Serbia, for example, many of those on the street have got more moral fibre in their little fingers than the people who prance around in front of the

Words that set off revolution

Marx: The workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to gain. - 1848

Lenin: Where force is necessary it must be applied boldly, decisively and completely. But one must know the limitations of force: one must know when to blend force with a manoeuvre. a blow with an agreement

Mao: We must let a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend and see which flowers are the best and which school of thought is best expressed and we shall applaud the best blooms and the best thoughts. - 1956

Jesus Christ: The truth shall set you free. - 25 (approx)

Garibaldi: I can offer you neither honours nor wages; I offer you hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Anyone who loves his country,

Robespierre: Any law which violates the inalienable rights of man is essentially unjust and tyrannical; it is not a law at all.

a

Any institution which does not suppose the people good

and the magistrate corruptible is evil.

Gandhi: What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy? - 1942 and:

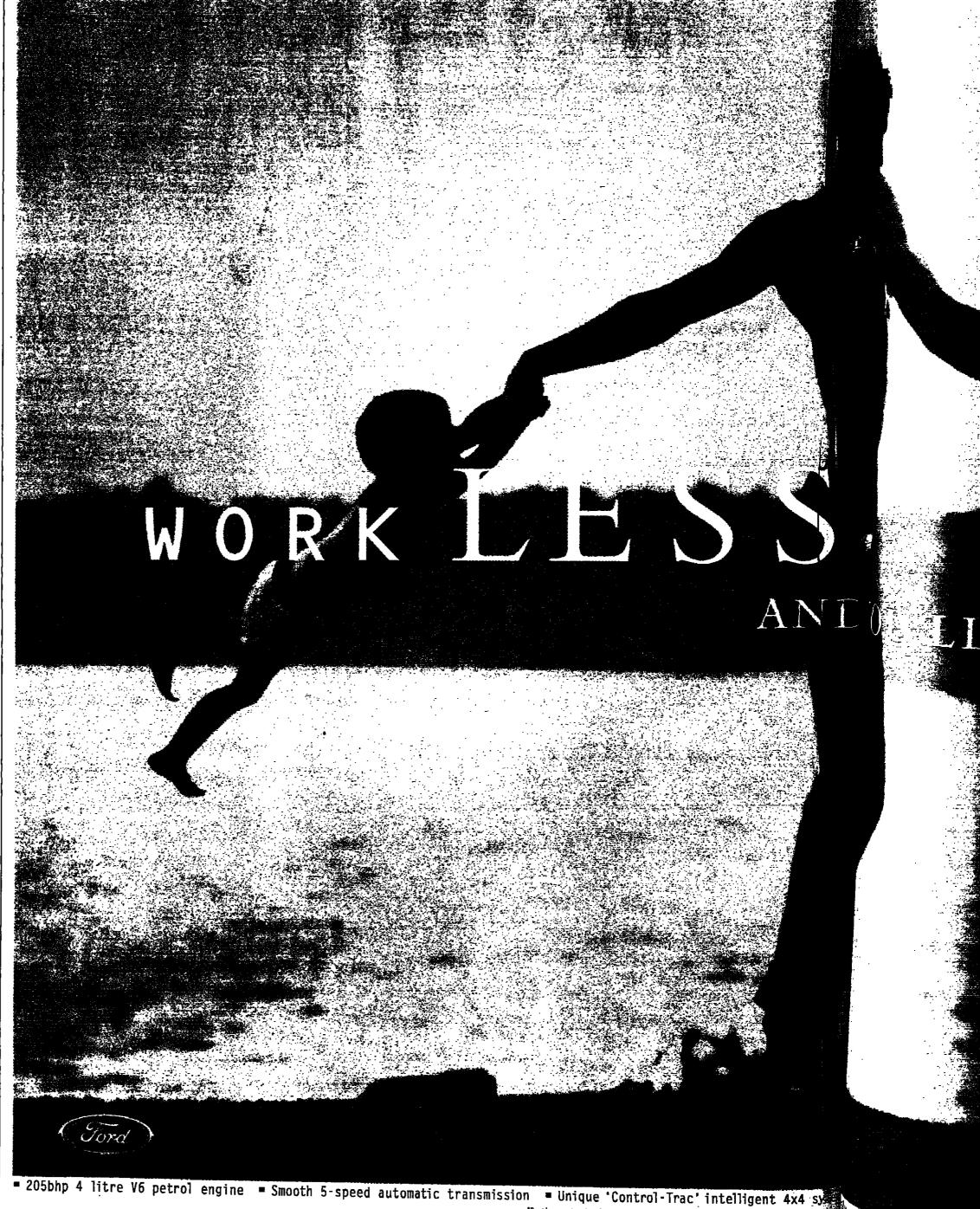
The moment the slave resolves that he will no longer be a slave, his fetters fall. He frees himself and shows the way to others. Freedom and slavery are mental states. - 1949

Anon (graffiti): Revolution allows the revolutionary to sublimate masochistic, neurotic, anal tendencies into a concern for the working class

Shirley Williams: The saddest illusion of revolutionary socialists is that revolution itself will change the nature of human

Oscar Wilde: Disobedience in the eyes of any one who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through re-

bellion. - 1891



le to take power back from the dictators

Keep the media sporlight on we the Baltic republic of Estonia of the most astonishing mome the peaceful revolution was relevision debate, organised by pathetic producer. TV news is especially for all those stock the provinces. Foreign media even more important. Be ame to foreign journalists, and spokesmen who speak to reign guages. Foreign journalists and so court them, even do their wo them. East Timorese activists rue embassies to seek asylum durin ternational summits - foreign o spondents love to get a real sur a break from boring briefings more interested newsdesks get more information will be bear back into the country via kneigh dio, and these days in a surpri number of countries via sai TV. English-language slogans good play on TV and in photogram Think about pictures Kin demonstrators hurl lit newspaper police in lieu of petrol hombs. look great but do no real dama



Party time: Berliners enjoying themselves on New Year's Eve 1989 following the fall of the wall

COME TOGETHER

Build a broad-based movement, and avoid creating divisions that you will only have to heal once (if) you take power. Serbian demonstrators have understood this as they encourage the police, army and even members of the ruling party to come over

Persuade bits of the establishment to crack. All dodgy regimes love the trappings of respectability. They cosset the establishment. If you can persuade the establishment to seem publicly disloyal, you're in clover. Strikes by actors, orchestras, protest letters from writers' unions – all of these have played an important role as early-warning signs in the past. Students and dissidents can be written off as troublemakers.

But when theatres are dark or the concert halls closed, that gets embarrassing. If the army cracks, too - as it has in Scrbia, to some extent - that's a bonus. You may think that old general or ancient apparatchik is a vile racist. But if he also wants the regime to go, put your feelings to one side. Your mum may think he is the best thing ever. Unlike in democratic elections, where dodgy individuals lower the tone of an entire party, you need a bit of everything in

people's power, to let your mov



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BE GRADUAL

Be seriously gradual: only ask for things which the mad totalitarians have already signed up for, thinking the commitments can be ignored. Thus, in the Soviet Union, the much-mocked Helsinki agreement was powerfully used by dissidents. They insisted they were not against Soviet Communist power as such (usually a lie; they were against it, with good reason), but were merely protesting against the flouting of a par-

ticular article in the Soviet constitution or the Helsinki final act. Similarly, in Serbia, the demonstrators have not fixed their sights on Milosevic but have instead focused on the refusal to accept the results of an election which he himself allowed to proceed. Emphasise your respect for the rule of law - bring detailed legal actions before adopting quasi-legal or illegal metbods.

Each little concession helps you to win. Ryszard Kapuscinski, in his account of the Iranian revolution, Shah of Shahs, calls it the "zigzag to the precipice". It is just a matter of whether your society is ready to boil. Press home concessions by asking for another little change.

THINK AHEAD

Prepare the ground for when the basic victories are won. If demonstrations have the desired effect, a protest movement can very quickly become an embryo government -and that is when the real problems start, as Vaclay Havel, Lech Walesa and plenty of others found in the 1990s.

Without proper planning, your brave new government could quickly become deeply unpopular and then the bastards you worked so hard to overthrow might just come back again before they have had a chance to be properly reformed. It takes a long time for fully functioning democracy to take root, and vigilance must be maintained (ask any Bulgarian about this). Right now the opposition in Serbia is making all the right noises, but what will have a significant to the control of the contr happen if they get into power?

In Serbia's case, start thinking about an international rescue plan to get the economy out of the doldrums. Think about aid to set up independent radio and television stations and international monitors to advise on and watch over free elections.

Think about equipment and training for new businesses and municipal services. Seek advice on which industries are viable and which are just clogging up the atmos-



protest in Leipzig, East Germany, in

DONAGGMEROMISE

Don't settle for any compromises and don't be conned. Once you compromise, you are lost. The bastards always try to squirm their way out of trouble, but you should always push for total capitulation. Remember: they think democrats are mugs, and they are comfortable with brazen lies. Get any agreements in writing, or (better) get the Prime Minister or President himself to read out the agreement in a humiliating televised climbdown. A promise is not a promise until it has been read out on the main evening news - midnight late news, another trick they sometimes try, is emphatically not good enough. The East Germans didn't stop when Honecker resigned and they didn't stop when the wall came down; only once the opposition was invited on to a round table with the government and elections were called did they consider the battle to be won. By contrast, in Belgrade in March 1991, anti-government demonstrators allowed themselves to be conned by Milosevic's promises that he would meet their various demands; the fizz then went out of the protests and the government rapidly recovered control. This time around. Milosevic is being equally slippery, but the opposition and the students seem to understand that it ain't over till it's over.

Alchemy that makes heroes of malcontents

Belgrade

The smouldering discontent of a small minority has finally burst into flames. After years of waiting, the heat in one part of the Serbian haystack has set the whole haystack ablaze. As a Serb friend said this week: "I'm so happy. At last, I feel I'm not

Why now? Why have hundreds of thousands of Serbs gone out on the streets in recent weeks? There is a chemistry at work, but it is a mysterious chemistry. Many elements poverty, fear, resentment, hope-

lessness – are combined.

Just below the hotel room where I am now sitting, I have in past years stood amid demonstrators in Belgrade, and asked myself and others whether, this time, the protests will gain unstoppable momentum. Each time, we shrugged and admitted ignorance. It seemed unlikely, given the apathy around us. Slobodan Milosevic, the Ser-

bian president, has always been a master of tactics. Now, at last, he may have over-reached himself. In 1991, he used tanks against protesters; and, just to be on the safe side, he launched a war. That kept the lid on things, for a time at least. Get-ting involved in a war, as even democratic leaders know helps any government in distress. Later, Mr Milosevic showed an astonishing ability to persuade Serbs that they were permanently threatened, and that they must therefore support

him, Serbia's only hope. Throughout the years of the Yugoslav wars, the protests in Belgrade remained relatively small. Serbs, who in the Second World War had shown enormous bravery in the struggle against the Nazis, seemed passive in the face of a demagogic leader of their own.

The pattern of events in other countries has shown, however, that even the most apparently compliant population can finally be goaded into pro-test, when the time is right. In Czechoslovakia, people sat almost quiet for 20 years after the Soviet invasion of 1968, licking their wounds and adjusting to the new realities. A few thousand demonstrated in August 1988. At the end of October 1989, a crucial demonstration in Prague was too small to get the ball rolling - through a mixture of apathy and fear. But, less than three weeks later, another demonstration got thousands of students out on the streets and ignited the spark. The turning point: police beat up demonstrators, and one man was

thought to have been killed. At which point those Czechs who had been muttering words of lovalty one day were out on the streets the next. The use of violence, intended to intimidate,

had the opposite effect.
In East Germany, as in Serbia, a fake election result triggered the opposition demonstrations which eventually brought the regime down. The local elections in May 1989 were rigged even more shamelessly than usual. The Leipzigers were ready to do something about it. Through the summer and autumn, numbers attending Monday demonstrations kept increasing. When the regime be-

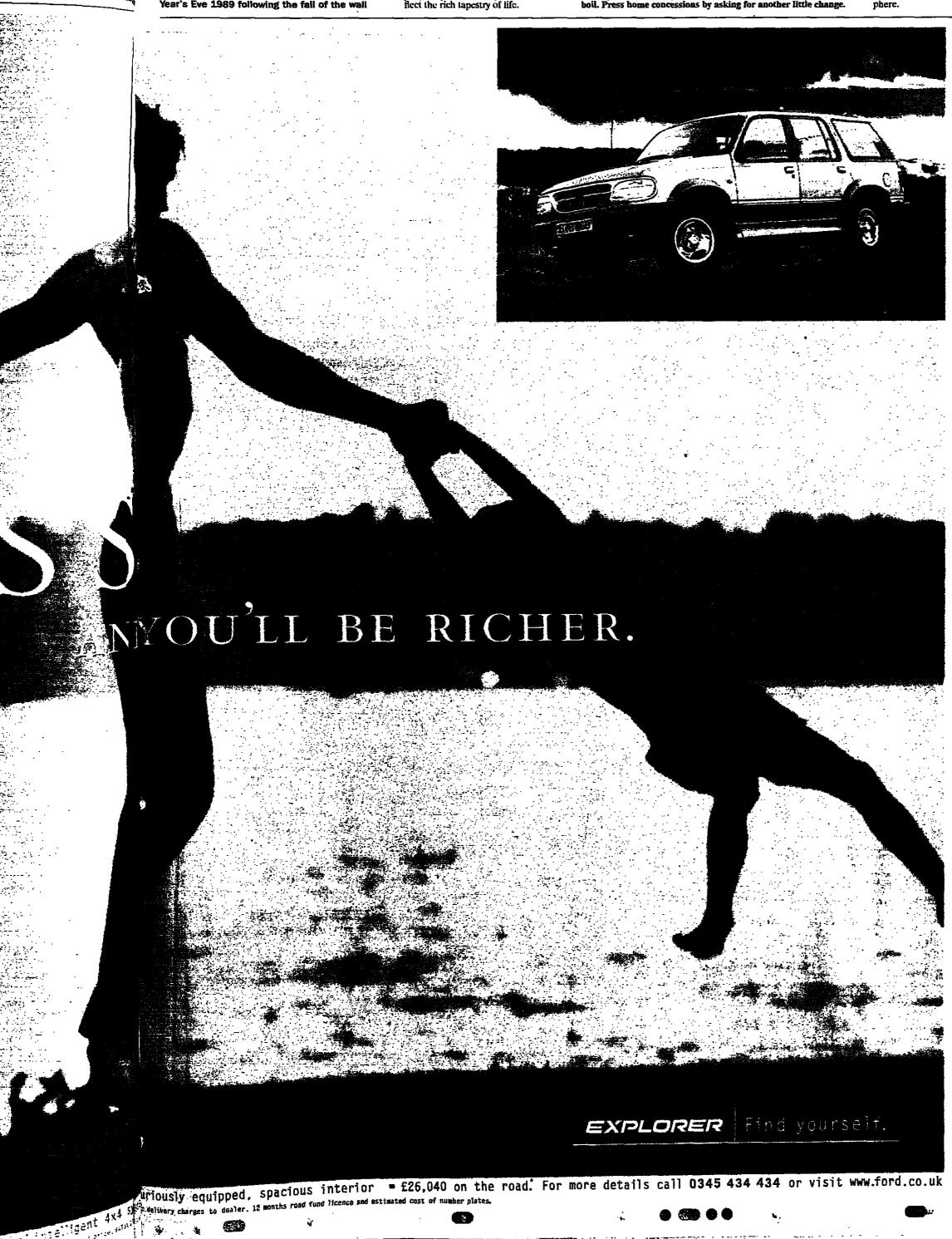
6 The most compliant nation can be goaded into protest when the time is right 🤊

gan to panic, it decided to use the Tiananmen Square option, which it believed that Peking had so successfully used in June. Unfortunately, this was the crunch: when people realised that the authorities were ready to shoot, more, not less, of them decidregime's thuggishness persuaded many to show bravery on that October in Leipzig.

In Latvia, one night before an expected assault by Russian troops in February 1991, I met an elderly couple dancing in the packed city streets: they partied their way through the night, so that their presence, and that of thousands of others, might make the political cost of a milmary assault unacceptably high.

When the going gets tougher, the decisions, in some respects, get easier. In Stalinist times, it was literally suicidal to defy the authorities. But in less obviously murderous regimes, the risks are worth weighing up. Indeed, it sometimes seems that there are no real choices. As the old saying put it: if not now, when? In Serbia today, the balance

seems to have been tipped. Slobodan Milosevic is not finished. But he is living on borrowed time - partly because of those who have been ready to risk the potential violence. There must now be room for hope that a true history of Serbia, and of its ignominious leader, will one day be written for the next generation of young Serbs.



Lord Todd

Lord Todd, former President of the Royal Society and Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, was a colossus of 20th-century chemistry and will be remembered not only for his contribution to the chemistry of the nucleic acids - work that led to the solution of the genetic code and the subsequent development of genetic science - but also for his part in raising the status of science to its apogee in the 1960s. Alexander Robertus Todd

was born in Glasgow in 1907, in an unprivileged family which had bettered itself by hard work; respect for education was deeply ingrained in it and in him. He began to experiment in chemistry even before his secondary schooling at Alian Glen's School, the Glasgow High School of Science, and he went on to take a First in Chemistry at Glasgow University.

In those days, Germany was the country for organic chemistry and Todd, attracted by the molecules found in living matter, went to Frankfurt to take his DPhil with the German organic chemist Walter Borsche. Those were the last days of the German science wrecked by the Nazis, who discriminated against all scientists who did not conform to their ideology, leading to a movement of scientists out of Germany from 1933 onwards.

In 1931 Todd gained a Senior Studentship from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, the far-sighted foundation that did so much for British scientists, and he spent it at Oxford with Sir Robert Robinson, working with great success on chemical synthesis of the anthocyanins that colour flowers and fruits. By the time he left Oxford in 1934, his style as a chemist was formed: wide-ranging,

and undeterred by difficulties. Todd's first independent researches, at Edinburgh and at the Lister Institute in London, were on the structure and synthesis of vitamins. It was a highly competitive field and, although he did not arrive first at

syntheses of thiamin (vitamin B1) and tocopherol (vitamin E), his synthesis of thiamin became the one used commercially. He also worked on cannabis, and in his excellent autobiography A Time to Remember (1983) he tells with relish the story that, having naïvely imported 6lb of distilled cannabis resin donated by the Indian police, he had to promise Customs that he would send 25 copies of any ensuing paper to their Bureau of Drugs and Indecent Publications.

His reputation was growing and appointment as Sir Samuel Hall Professor at Manchester at the age of 31 put him in charge of a major chemical department. He must have impressed his seniors, as he impressed a very junior me when we first met in 1941, with his calm constructive approach to all problems, scientific or administrative. He knew what must be done and he usually knew how to do it.

The Second World War years

limited Todd's research effort (he worked on war gases that were never used) but he was able to start the research that was to win him the Nobel Prize in 1957. The nucleic acids, famous now as RNA and DNA. were at that time ill-defined components of living cells. The connection with inheritance and maintenance was guessed at, but without evidence. The individual building bricks (sugars and purines and pyrimidines) were known but had not been put together, and nobody knew how to use the mortar (phosphate). Todd had to assemble chemistry from four unrelated fields to solve problems that no-body had tackled before; and he succeeded by a systematic assault that owed nothing to luck. His synthesis of ATP (adenosine triphosphate, the carrier of chemical energy) was a measure of the mastery he achieved. This field is now so well developed that putting together a

Todd's last move, academically, was to Cambridge in 1944. He inherited a stagnant, illfound department with a divided command, and transformed it. Todd always had the ability to attract and inspire good coworkers and he brought some of the Manchester group with him (they formed a club called the Toddlers). With the ending of the war, people came from all over the world to work with him.

The Nobel Prize in 1957 confirmed Todd as the leading organic chemist in Britain. He continued to attack difficult problems. One of these was the chemistry of the aphins, very unusual pigments that give their colours to aphids. Another was the anti-anaemia vitamin (vitamin B12), but here the mystery of its structure was to vield to Dorothy Hodgkin's inspired crystallographic interpretation. Scientists who worked with Todd at Manchester and Cambridge spread over the globe the spirit of free enquiry and intellectual challenge that they found in his laboratories.

A scientist of Todd's ability and eminence could hardly have avoided involvement in the politics of science and in the formation of public scientific policy, and there is no evidence that he was reluctant. In Cambridge he became Master of Christ's College, helped to found Churchill College, and took part in the reform of the Cambridge University Press. He served as President of the Chemical Society and later (1975-80) of the Royal Society. În 1965-68 he chaired a Royal Commission on medical education. By 1962 he was already a life peer, with friendships and contacts pervading the scientific establishment not only of this country, but abroad (he loved Australia and often visited there). His honours are too numerous to mention.

Politically, Todd was a rightwing élitist, as people who have risen by merit often are. He deplored the expansion of university education, fearing that



it would produce too many chiefs and too few Indians; but he was not narrow or intolerant. People trusted him and sought his advice. I remember talking with Vladimir Prelog, a fellowlaureate, and asking him if he knew what "tod" meant in Scottish. "Yes," said Vlado, "A fox. A benevolent fox."

In 1987 Todd married Alison Dale, daughter of Sir Henry Dale who was soon to become President of the Royal Society. They had a son and two daughters. Her death in 1987 was a heavy blow to him, compounded by injuries and illness. He spent his last years quietly at Cambridge, and retained his faculties to the end.

John Cornforth

As a Scottish MP, writes Tam Dalyell, may I record the debt that two generations of our problems.

constituents owe to the work of Alec Todd in helping to set up Strathclyde University? Sir Sam Curran FRS, its first Principal (1964-80), who chose Todd as the first Chancellor, recalls:

After tough arguments with Sir Keith Murray, then chairman of the University Grants Committee, agreement was reached that the Glasgow Tech should become a university. Murray asked me, "What about a first Chancelor?" I said he must be a Scot. He must be a Scot. He must represent the sciences. He must be seen as a heavyweight in academic affairs. We chimed together, "Only one man fits that bill, all three criteria. Got it in one! Alec Todd."

Curran went to Cambridge and Todd's immediate reaction was that he was proud to do the job. For 21 years he was a notable figure - he understood the role of Chancellor well, never meddled and was happy to lis-ten to individuals with their

As an honorary secretary of a Parliamentary and Scientific Committee during the period when Todd was our president (1983-86), I saw at first hand his assiduous attendance and contribution to the nuts-and-bolts work of the committee. He was ever concerned with what Parliament could do about scientific manpower.

As a member of the "Other Place", I pay respectful tribute to the quality of reports on subjects such as engineering, research and development education and training for new technologies, occupational health and hygiene services, research on the relationship between agriculture and the environment, new space tech-nologies, and guidelines on land use which came out during the time between 1980 and 1984 when Todd was chairman. He

was superb at picking subjects remote sensing and digital mapping, for example - which were not of obvious importance at the time but which subsequently were seen to be very important.

Alexander Robertus Todd, organ ic chemist: born Glasgow 2 Octo-ber 1907; Reader in Biochemistry, London University 1937-38; Šir Samuel Hall Professor of Chemistry and Director of Chemical Laboratories, Manchester University 1938-44; FRS 1942; Professor of Organic Chemistry, Cambridge University 1944-71; Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge 1944-96, Master 1963-78; Kt 1954; Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1957; created 1962 Baron Todd; Chancellor, Strathctyde University 1965-91, Fellow 1990-96; OM 1977; married 1937 Alison Dale (died 1987; one son, two daughters); died Cambridge 10 January 1997.

had kept a copy and it came out

Professor C. P. Magill

The German scholar Charles Philip ("Peter") Magill was the son of an Irish civil servant, and one of his early memories was of being escorted to school by a British soldier with a fixed bayonet. This experience played its part in the development of his constant adult desire to see literature in its social and historical context.

Physically he was wiry and compact, and his scholarship one might say accordingly - was unfussy, economical and, above all, lucid. He hinted in conversation that far too many publications in his field were characterised by other virtues. Like many truly erudite men, he claimed to know little, but wrote informatively on 19thcentury German literature and its reading public, and on the 18th-century classics.

Studies of German and Austrian comedy, Goethe, Schiller, J.P. Hebel and Heine are prominent in his output, which was mostly in the form of essays in academic journals. His German Literature, a survey from the Middle Ages to the present century, was published in 1974. As a co-editor of the academic journal German Life and Letters over 20 years he did much to guide and encourage younger colleagues. His advice was

always perceptive and valuable. Magill's First in the Modern Language Tripos at Cambridge in 1932 was followed by three years as a schoolmaster at Haberdashers, and then by some years spent in research, leading to appointment to the staff of the German Department at University College London in 1938. He spent the war years with the Royal Artillery, the London Irish Rifles, the Intelligence Corps and the British Military Mission to Yugoslavia.

After a period back on the staff of London University he was appointed to the Chair of German at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1952, where he also served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Vice-Principal of the college. His tact and discretion made him an excellent head of department, and students and colleagues alike enjoyed generous hospitality from him and

his beloved wife Kathleen. During his 19 years in office, Aberystwyth was struggling to come to terms with the fact that its pre-war nonconformist ethos would have to change as new generations of emancipated students arrived to rebel against the Old Order. Magill did much to ease the inevitable developments, and frequently defused potentially difficult situations by a humorous remark, causing indignant moralists to find their rage turning to laughter. The Festschrift presented to him in 1974 commented, appositely, on his "shrewdness of judgement

and exemplary diplomacy". He could always see the best in everyone, without being blind to the worst. One did not mess with "CPM", as those who attempted anything less than honest and fair found to their cost. Be four-square with him, however, and he was kindness itself.

L. Thompson and G. A. Wells

Charles Philip Magill, German scholar: born Dublin 11 December 1910; Professor of German, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1952-71 (Emeritus); married 1934 Kathleen Thomson (died 1990; one son, one daughter); died Croydon 10 January 1997.

Jean-Edern Hallier

Jean-Edern Hallier was a controversial figure - writer, philosopher and television presenter, *agent provocăteur* and *en*fant terrible. He conducted personal vendettas against the French presidents Valery Giscard D'Estaing and François Mitterrand, as well as most of the Parisian literary establishment. He was born Jean Hallier in

1936, to a well-to-do family. Baptised in Edern in Britanny the following year, he added the name of the village to his own (he was the first Breton allowed to do this). He excelled at school, going on to Oxford University (a rare feat for a Frenchman) to read comparative literature, Greek, Latin and philosophy at Christ Church.



polynucleotide is an assembly-

line process done by machines;

but Todd was the pioneer.

After working in publishing, he launched the literary review Tel Quel ("The Way It Is"), with

Philippe Sollers and Jean-René

Hughenin, in 1960. They intended to prick the pomposity of French literary circles but, within three years, Hallier had fallen out with his fellow writvolte-face became a regular man to be trusted. feature of the next 30 years. In 1963, Hallier published his

jeune fille ("The Adventures of a Young Girl") to acclaim. He later blew his own trumpet with the semi-autobiographical Le Grand écrivain ("The Great Writer"). Chagrin d'amour time spent in Chile, which nearly earned him the Prix Goncourt but also contributed to his first downfall. In January 1975, the Come May 1981, he was bitterly

daily paper Libération alleged that Hallier had kept a third of the \$3,000 he was supposed to have delivered to the Chilean guerrillas fighting the Pinochet ers. This penchant for pique and regime, and that he wasn't a The writer bounced back but

from then on he was embroiled first novel, Les Aventures d'une in controversy. In 1979, he published Lettre ouverte à un colin froid ("Open Letter to a Cold Hake"), a pamphlet attacking President Giscard D'Estaing France laughed and François Mitterrand, already a keen ad-("Unhappy Love Affair") fol-mirer, was amused. The two belowed a fictionalised account of came friends. Hallier even nursed the belief he would become Minister of Culture in the event of a socialist victory.

disappointed when Jack Lang was preferred. Hallier turned against the French president and became his bete noire: As a member of Mitterrand's inner circle, Hallier had discovered the existence of Mazarine, the socialist leader's love child by Anne Pingeot. He had also heard about his visits to Poland to consult cancer specialists. Hallier intended to expose him in L'Honneur perdu de François Mitterrand ("The Lost Honour of François Mitterrand") but, by 1984, 17 publishers had turned the book down.

Their lack of enthusiasm might have been due to government pressure but Hallier's weakness for publicity stunts didn't help. In April 1982, he

claimed to have been kidnapped by the French Revolutionary Brigade, a bogus organisation consisting mostly of Hallier associates. When he was "released" a week later, the police could find no trace of his kidnappers. Hallier was now libelling people indiscriminately and had purportedly become "the most bugged man in France". He attempted to blackmail the French administration into dropping huge tax claims against him by threatening to reveal everything he knew about Mitterrand (including his war record). Strangely, the taxman lost interest around the time Hallier burnt his manuscript in front of the Elysée Palace, but the writer

last year, selling 300,000 copies. Hallier's death occupied most of the French dailies' front pages on the day after his death. They couldn't agree on what exactly he'd brought to the public life of France. Libération led with "novelist and trickster". Le Figaro opted for "ragged man of letters" but France-Soir didn't mince words and called him "a little brat". Hallier would have relished the absence of consensus. Pierre Perrone Jean-Edern Hallier, writer and

Deauville 12 January 1997.

broadcaster, born Saint-Germain-

en-Laye 1 March 1936; married

1965 (one son, one daughter); died

Mogg Williams

Proof that industrial communities do not live by bread alone was for decades supplied by the Welsh poet Mogg Williams. Like W.H. Davies, the Monmouthshire-born "tramp poet", he is entitled to be regarded as a "people's poet". He wrote almost exclusively about his native South Wales coalfield.

Born David Morgan Williams in Ogmore Vale in 1928, he left school at the age of 14 and

Births.

Marriages

& Deaths

followed the traditional route of those times by working underground. A pit accident forced him to leave the mines after some 20 years and he took to writing. "Spin blind wheel", he wrote

in his poem "The Pitwheel". You bastard spin From boy to man I have seen you win. A stream of coal from the

underground late the running light of day. The titles of his collections in-

clude Poets, Pitwheels and Ap- tribution to Wales's workingples (1975), Mogg's People (1985), Of Breads, Gods and Men (1987) and Ropes of Smoke (1992). He published much of his work himself and gave away any profits to good causes, particularly those which helped to

sustain mining communities.

At the 1974 South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod he was presented with a silver miner's lamp in recognition of hir

came an Empire under John, Prince

Regent of Portugal, 1816: the British

expedition led by Err.est Shackleton

reached the South Magnetic Pole,

1909; following a fire in Osaka,

Japan, 30,000 were rendered home-

less when 5,000 houses were burnt, 1912; in the United States, the 18th

Amendment was ratifled, which pro-hibited the sale of alcoholic bever-

ages, 1920; the US senate voted

against joining the League of Nations, 1920; the Gulf war started with the

launch of Operation Storm, when al-lied air attacks were made on Iraq

and occupied Kuwait, 1991. Today is

the Feast Day of St Berard and Others, St Fursey, St Henry of Cocket,

St Honoratus of Arles, St Marcellus L pope and St Priscilla.

Williams's work was frowned on by the stiff necks of Wales's cultural establishment; it was their loss. Undeterred, he roamed the valleys reading

social clubs. During the 1984-85 miners' strike his readings verged on the inspirational, helping to satisfy the embattled valleys' thirst for

Mr Robin Burgess, President of the

Newspaper Society, was the host at a breakfast held yesterday at the Airi-

um Restaurant, London SW1, in ho-

poetry in public houses and

relief from the hardships of picketing and making ends meet. He played a similar role a decade later when the miners of Tower Colliery, in the Cynon valley, waged a successful campaign to buy their pit, which has just celebrated its second anniversary as a profitable co-operative.

Some of his poetry and prose was broadcast on radio and television and his first stage play,

David Morgan ("Mogg") Williams, poet and miner: born Ogmore Vale. Glamorgan 15 February 1928; married 1949 Joyce Barrett (one

On Wordberry Hill, was direct-

ed at the Sherman Theatre in

Cardiff by Karl Francis, now

head of drama at BBC Wales,

son, one daughter); died Ogmore

Employer liable for racism in the workplace

of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Potter) 11 December 1996

ployer was liable under section 32(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 for acts of discrimination perpetrated by an employee "in the course of his employment" was to be answered by reference to the ordinary meaning of those words rather than to the more stringent requirements of the common law concept of vicarious liability.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Raymondo Virtue Jones, reversed the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on 13 June 1995, and restored that of an industrial tribunal, awarding Mr Jones £5,000 on his claim against his employers, Tower Boot Co Ltd. under sections 1 and 4 of the Race Relations Act 1976. Robin Allen QC, John Whitmore and Thomus Kibling (Campaign for Racial Equality, legal department) for Mr Jones; Simon Buckhaven and Philip Gullway-Cooper (Smith Chamberlain,

Lord Justice Waite said that in April 1992 Mr Jones, then aged 16, began work at the employers' shoe factory as a last by the employees in the course operative. He was of mixed eth- of their employment.

Wellingborough) for the company.

LAW REPORT

16 January 1997

nic parentage and was joining a workforce which had not previously employed anyone from an ethnic minority.

From the outset he was subjected by fellow employees to harassment of the gravest kind. He was called by such racially offensive names as "chimp" and "monkcy". A notice had been stuck on his back reading "Chipmunks are go". Two employees whipped him on the legs with a piece of welt and threw metal bolts at his head. One of them burnt his arm with a hot screwdriver, and later the same two seized his arm again and tried to put it in a lasting machine.

where the burn was caught and started to bleed again. Unable to endure this treatment. Mr Jones left the job after four weeks. He made a complaint against the employers of racial discrimination, contending that his fellow employees had subjected him to a discriminatory detriment on racial grounds under section 4(2)(c) of the 1976 Act, and that the employers were liable by virtue of section 32(1) be-

cause the acts had been done

The employers resisted the

claim on the ground, upheld by the appeal tribunal, that the relevant acts were outside the scope of the fellow employees' employment.

The issue was whether, in considering for the purpose of section 32(1) whether any conduct complained of amounted to a "thing done by a person in the course of his employment", an industrial tribunal should reach its decision by reference to (a) the words "course of employment" in the sense in which they were employed in every-day speech, or (b) the principles laid down by case law to establish the vicarious liability of an employer for torts committed by an employee.

Two principles were involved. First, that a statute was to be construed according to its legislative purpose. Second, that words in a statute were to be given their normal meaning according to general use unless the context indicated otherwise.

The general thrust of the 1976 Act was educative, persuasive and, where necessary, coercive. The relief accorded to victims of discrimination went beyond the ordinary remedies

of damages and an injunction, introducing provisions with a proactive function, designed as much to eliminate the occasions for discrimination as to compensate its victims or punish its perpetrators.

A purposive construction required section 32 (and the corresponding section 41 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975) to be given a broad interpretation.

While there was a broad conceptual similarity between an employer's responsibility both in the context of tortious liability in an employment context and in discrimination in the employment field, that similarity was insufficient to justify, on a linguistic construction. the reading of the phrase "course of employment" as subject to the gloss imposed on it in the common law context

of vicarious liability. To read it in such a way would cut across the whole legislative scheme and underlying

policy of section 32. The tribunals were free to interpret the ordinary and readily understandable words "in the course of employment" inthe sense in which every layman would understand them, without reference to the law of

vicarious liability in tort.

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BIRTHS KIRKUP: On 29 December, in Scar-borough Hospital, to Sarah (née Hillier) and Tim, a daughter, Ms Alice Clothilde. Alice Clothide. PAVLIDIS/BACKHOUSE: On 12 January 1997, to Megan and Jim, a daughter, Pollyanna, a granddaughter for Persafoni and Tom, Joselyn and Tom. DEATHS

GRAY: Kathleen Rose, widow of the Rev Stanley J. Gray, died very peace-fully, aged 95 years, at Wyndham House, Minebead, on Sunday 12 January, Thanksgiving service, Mine-head Baptist Church, on Friday 24 January, at 1.45pm. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to the Arthri-ris and Rheumatism Research Countis and Rheumatism Research Countries, c/o Murrell & Dewar Funera Directors, Irnham Road, Minchead

Announcements for Gazetie BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faced to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princes Royal, Preddent, Save the Children Fund, visits the Save the Children Pund Shop, Disbory, Greater Manchester; as Panyan, Victim Support, upons the new Winters State, Manchester; and as President, Courts of Justice, Manchester; and as President, the Princes Royal Trust for Curre, etited a land-rasing laucheon hosted by the High Master of Manchester Grammar School.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

um, 58; Miss Nadine Peppard, race Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, gelogist, 81; Lord Thomson of Mon nis player, 56; Lady (Marina) Vaizey, art critic, 59; Professor Sir William Wade QC, former Master, Gouville

Anniversaries

Births: Richard Savage, poet, 1697; Karl August Krebs, composer, 1804; André Michelin, tyre maker, 1853; Joan Rosita Forbes, traveller and writer, 1890; Karl Freund, cinema photographer, 1890; Ethel Merman (Zimmerman), singer and actress, 1909. Deaths: Edmund Spenser, poet, 1599; Clément-Philibert-Léo Delibes, composer, 1891; Carole Lombard (Jane Alice Peters), actress, killed in an air crash 1942; Arturo Toscanini, conductor, 1957. On this day: Ivan the Terrible, first Russian

plc, 62; Mr Michael White, theatre and film producer, 61.

Tsar, was crowned, 1547; Brazil be-

Mr Colin Banks, graphic designer, 65; Sir Alastair Blair, former Writer to the Signet, 89; Air Marshal Sir Robert Craven, 81; Sir Robin Dunn, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; Professor John Enderby, physicist, 66; The Right Rev Michael Henley, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 59: Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, metallurgist, 72: Sir Jack Lay-den, former chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 71; Pro-fessor Elaine Murphy, psychogeria-trician, 50; Mr Richard Ormond, director, National Maritime Muserelations consultant, 75; Mr Keith Shackleton, artist and naturalist, 74; lieth, former chairman of the IBA, 76; Mr Cliff Thorburn, spooker play-er, 49; Miss Christine Truman, tenand Caius, Cambridge, 79; Mr James Watson, chairman, Watson & Philip

Lectures National Gallery: Steven Adams. "Paintings from Copenhagen (iii): Vi-gnon, Lot with his Daughters", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twohig, "Beuys and Beyond", Ipra. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Sansovino, Vittoria and Palladio around the Venetian bacino", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Brian Louis Pearce, "W.E. Henley (1849-1903), Poet and Editor". 1.10pm. University College London, London WC1: Professor lan Dennis, The Critical (undition of Criminal Law", 1.15pm. Leicester University: Richard Adams, "Rutland and More - an audio-visual appreciation", 7.30pm.

London School of Economies, Lon-

don WC2: Professor Ulrich Beck,

"Risk Society Revisited", 1pm; Pro-

fessor Alfred Cockrell (Shimizu

Trust Lecture), "South Africa, a Bill

of Rights and the Duck-Rabbit",

Joan Dickson Chamber Music Fund

tope Campaign.

A Grand Launch of the Joan Dickson Chamber Music Fund will be held next Monday, 20 January, at 7.30pm in St James's Church, St James's Gardens, London W11. The Endellion Quartet will perform a programme of works by Haydn. Bartok and Beethoven. Tickets, priced at £15, are available from the Secretary, Joan Dickson Chamber Music Fund, c/o 31 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TT, telephone 0171-229 0219. The fund has been created in memory of

nour of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. The question whether an em-Luncheons HM Government Mr Ian Lang MP, President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of

Mr Shinji Sato, Minister of Interna-tional Trade and Industry of Japan.

Breakfasts

lewspaper Society

Receptions HM Government Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, and Mr Ian Lang MP. President of the Board of Trade, hosted a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW L to mark the launch of the Central Eu-

the cellist and teacher Joan Dickson.

Professor C. P. Magill

The German scholar Charles Philip ("Peter") Magill was the son of an Irish civil servant and one of his early memories wa of being escorted to school h a British soldier with a fuel bayoner. This experience plane its part in the development of his constant adult desire to see literature in its social and historical context.

Physically he was wiry and compact, and his scholarship. one might say accordingly - We unfussy, economical and abue all, lucid. He hinted in conver sation that far too many public cations in his field were characterised by other vinue Like many truly erudite men h claimed to know little, has wrote informatively on luk century German literature and its reading public, and on the 18th-century classics.

Studies of German and Aus trian comedy. Guethe, Schille J.P. Hebel and Heine are promi nent in his output, which way mostly in the form of every academic journals. His Cin. man Literature, a survey hog the Middle Ages to the press century, was published in 1974 As a co-editor of the academs journal German Life and Leng over 20 years he did much ; guide and encourage younger colleagues. His advice as always perceptive and valuable

Magill's First in the Moden Language Tripos at Cambrida in 1932 was followed by three years as a schoolmaster at Haterdashers, and then by some years spent in research, leading to appointment to the staff of the German Department a University College London's 1938. He spent the war was with the Royal Artillen, the London Irish Rule, the last figence Corps and the Buik

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Military Mission to Yugoslay After a period back on the staff of London University was appointed to the Chang Cherman at the University Co. lege of Wales, Abenstwift a 1952, where he also serieds \$; Dean of the Faculty of Aread Vice Princip. I the odler His fact and discretion man him an excellent head of & ne out is partment, and students at collenenes sinke enjoyed as grees here the from him and his belowed was Kainken

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The second to the last

Paul Magrath, Ro^{ger}

Secretaria de la companya del la companya de la com

Sir. While I broadly agree with Andreas Whittam-Smith's comments on homelessness ("At last, homeless people find a place on

the agenda", 13 January), he omits Clarke's agenda – for cuts.

Housing Federation estimates that the Government will not even come close to building the modest 60,000 new social lettings planned for 1997 - there will be a shortfall of 26,000 affordable homes for

n this page yesterday we carried a letter from five chief constables and the commissioner of breaks, for instance - leaving little the City of London Police. It made an leisure for ministerial gamesmanship. impressive and very nearly persuasive Yet here we see Mr Howard well-posiread. The letter was a rebuttal of crittioned for a strike at the Tory Party sucicism of the Police Bill currently before cession, albeit from the rung just below the House of Lords, criticism that has the top. The price the public has had grown in clamour and which has preto pay has not, however, been small. sented us with the odd - and suspicious Too often during his tenure of the - spectacle of the leading Tory news-Home Office, detailed drafting and careful law-making have been sacripapers each taking the same, antago-

ficed to the need to make Mr Howard

look good to the Tory backwoods and

party conclaves. Prisons and sentenc-

ing policy have suffered as a result.

Is the Police Bill another of those hopefully short-lived monuments to Howard. There are positive arguments Mr Howard's ambition; another policy that substitutes the symbolism of "toughness" for concern about the liberty of the citizen? Not quite. Mr ers contained in the Bill - but there are Howard is right to argue that the existing powers of the police to obtain evidence "covertly" or by means of "intrusive surveillance" are now unsatbill is comprehensible only by reference to its authorship, and this requires us isfactorily specified - and Jack Straw, his Labour opposition number, is right to agree that a new law is needed. Some of this surveillance is at present authorised by chief police officers: for some the police rely on common law powers; meanwhile both the Security Service and Customs and Excise exercise similar powers under quite different legislative and administrative



Police surveillance powers must be watched

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

Judging the most controversial aspect of the Bill - allowing chief constables to authorise "intrusive surveillance" must rest on a prior assessment of the role and the behaviour of Britain's police. The past two decades have seen rapid improvement in the education, calibre and, to coin a phrase, constitutional reliability of chief constables. It is even conceivable that some of them will vote Labour. Television scriptwriters are good if not infallible guides to the public reputation of chief police officers, but if programmes such as The

Chief are any guide, it is high. It is those chief officers who will be

given a formal role, ex ante, in approving police action that could involve breaking into private premises and planting surveillance equipment. Ex post, a new commissioner would have the power to investigate complaints. Are they to be trusted? The general answer must be yes. But that is a different question from whether the formalisation of police powers of entry and surveillance will serve to combat crime. Here Mr Howard - and Labour, to date - have failed to ask it. A principal test for any extension of police power must be its impact on the volume of criminal behaviour, something

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difficult to measure, admittedly, and ful check. There may be other catenot always captured by numbers of arrests, prosecutions and convictions, The Police Bill is, ostensibly, geared to the way criminal conspirators can use technology and the ease of movement of men and money across borders what the lay public understand by organised crime. But "serious crime" as defined in the Bill turns out to be a catch-all which would include (the authors of yesterday's letter seemed to confirm this) conspiring to climb trees and obstruct the construction of the Newbury bypass.
It is at this point that Jack Straw

should draw up a set of positive and friendly amendments to the Bill, designed to make it work as a piece of crime-fighting legislation. "Serious crime" must be more tightly defined. It must not include actions which might lead to some breach of public order in the pursuit of political or environmental campaigning. Lawyers - a group not without self-interest - have raised the question of the inviolability of solicitors' offices to police surveillance. The very idea that there might be solicitors hand-in-glove with fraud-sters and thieves! There is, indeed, a point of principle here to do with the balance of forces within the criminal iustice system. Lawyers' premises do deserve some protection: forcing the police to obtain prior permission from a judge before acting would be a usegories of premises that could be treated in a similar way.

The Police Bill has generated a lot of comment, some of it peculiarly intemperate. Jack Straw has been attacked in terms that suggest he ought, with a jerk of his knee, to oppose anything and everything proposed by Mr Howard. In fact Mr Straw should set about challenging Mr Howard to make the Bill watertight, without compromising its purpose.

The naked truth of 'Country Life'

With the decline of the old aristoc-racy, their fishin'-shootin'-huntin' magazine, Country Life, is developing imaginative strategies to survive into its second century. Futurology is one: by 2097 Country Life predicts we will have algae for dinner, pollution for tea. Oh yes, and the super-rich will buy up our crumbling country houses, and the poor will go into service - delivering a new readership for Country Life, 100 years down the line. In the meantime, however, the magazine will make do by picking up a new cluster of readers, currently ost without their usual monthly read. Nipples and pearls in the centenary edition have a purpose, surely, to boldly go where Health and Efficiency left off.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Flexible EU best answer to pollution

nistic line. The sight of, for example, the

Daily Mail and Telegraph uniting in

defence of civil liberty is at least divert-

ing. Strangely, though, they are largely

wrong in championing this particular

attack on the Home Secretary, Michael

for the codification and statutory

expression of police surveillance pow-

also compelling arguments for at least

two substantive amendments to the

to inspect the motives of Mr Howard.

The frequency of his appearance in

these columns - in the dock - does not

mean we are unable to appreciate his

political skill, nor his capacity, manifest

to some extent in the Police Bill, to

respond to the demands of effective

crime-fighting in an increasingly tech-nological world. The Home Secretary-

Like a work of art, a parliamentary

proposed legislation.

Sir: Sarah Helm, in her excellent report from Brussels (14 January), suggests that transport and environmental issues are not appropriate for a flexible European Community.

Surely the opposite is the case. The Centre for European Studies has compiled a long list of problems that cross national borders in Europe but do not cross all the frontiers that divide the existing member states, let alone the 20 or more of the future. Let me give two examples.

1) North Sea pollution is getting gradually worse. Some 12 countries pour their filth into its waters that once had an abundance of fish. Unless we begin to reverse the process of biological death soon, it could take decades for the North Sea to recover. For the UK or any other individual country to end its flow of pollution by itself would be near-futile. A common programme of action is needed desperately, in which all countries take part. But why should the Italians or the Portuguese be required to do so and pay a share of the cost?

A flexible Europe, by bringing the offenders together, could achieve the kind of international cooperation that ought to be the basis of all European decision-making.

2) How can we safeguard the future of the forests of Central Europe and Scandinavia from acid rain? Some of the peripheral member states - Ireland and Greece particularly - neither have responsibility for what has happened nor gain advantage from a remedy. Again, why should they pay for a policy or be troubled by taking part? Sir RICHARD BODY MP (Holland with Boston, C) Chairman of the Trustees Centre for European Studies.

Sir: Before we get too tied up with discussions over a common European currency, would it not be a more important first step to introduce EU-wide banking?

London SW8

I thought this had happened when banks adopted the "sort code", but I have found this is far from true - I have just received a cheque for £34 drawn on Societé Générale in Paris, repaying some travelling expenses. Although this is made out in sterling, the National Westminster Bank has refused to process it. Abbey National will charge £7.50 for paying it into my account, and First Direct £5.

This is much more of a barrier to trans-European trade than what the individual currencies are called. KEITH FRAYN

Clarke's cuts a blow to homeless

to mention one critical factor in shaping current housing provision: in this year's Budget, housing did find a place at the top of Kenneth

As a result, the National



rent. This myopic move, so typical of a government which sees housing as a safe area in which to trim public spending, will have a doubly damaging effect. Not only will more vulnerable people be unable to secure a long-term tenancy, but these same people will create more of a drain on housing benefit - by close on £11m a year, according to DSS estimates.

So, predictably, this supposed "saving" adds up to more deprivation for the homeless and a waste of precious benefit resources DIANA MADDOCK MP (Christchurch, Lib Dem) Liberal Democrat spokeswoman for Housing House of Commons

London SWI Sir: "Every time we go and check we find they [the homeless] won't go in hostels" - Home Office minister David Maclean (report, 11

January). The reason so many homeless reject hostels in preference to sleeping rough is because in ever more hostels today the homeless individual, as a condition of staying in the hostel, is forced to see a psychiatrist, who after a very brief interview diagnoses, as often as not, mental illness - a stigma for life - and prescribes tranquillisers of one sort or another, which have to be taken as a condition of accepting shelter, rehousing etc.

For many of the homeless it is an unacceptable deal. ADAM BLUE Carlisle, Cumbria The writer was once homeless

Sir: Homeless people and beggars are not necessarily synonymous ("Hey Jimmy: heard about the minister who thinks most beggars

are Scots?",11 January). However, those homeless people using our Cold Weather Shelter last week were as follows: almost 80 per cent were male, with the same percentage having slept rough on the night before moving in. Almost

one in five was aged over 50, with the predominant group in their midthirties. More than a quarter were local". Scots represented only 6 per cent (the same percentage as Asian and Irish), less than both Black British and European.

These statistics are freely available from agencies working with homeless people. Indeed the Cold Weather Shelters are governmentfunded, so by implication it is the Government which assists us in keeping the details. It is a pity therefore that Government ministers cannot quote facts. CHERYLSTCLAIR Director, Providence Row

The above three letters appeared in the first edition of yesterday's Independent

Not cricket

London El

Sir: While holding the reverse of a £10 note up to the light, I noticed what can only be described as a case of lèse-majesté in the positioning of the Queen's lips in relation to the batsman. Was this inadvertent, or should suitable accommodation in the Tower be prepared for someone from the Bank of England? PETER DRAPER Meldreth, Cambridgeshire

More homework just a guick fix?

Sir: I dispute the premise of your leading article "Lesson one: change the culture of learning" (14 January). The claim that "huge swathes" of the school population (especially boys) are hostile towards hard learning is simply not borne out by research I myself have just completed in five English state secondary schools.

Some 2.500 girls and boys, aged 11-16, were asked to construct their own ideal curriculum. For all five schools the six most frequently chosen subjects were English. Maths, Art, Drama, IT and PE. Given a free hand, the students opted for a balanced timetable that recognised equally the claims of academic as well as recreational, cultural and technical subjects.

Your article perpetuates the current demonising of the young, whose views are rarely if ever sought or considered in the "debates" about juvenile crime, drug use or education. It is ludicrous to suggest that a quick fix on homework could substitute for the inspiration of highly motivated and dedicated teachers. MALCOLM ROSS Reader in Education University of Exeter

Sir; Why must a half-hour of homework for a primary-age child necessitate 15 extra hours of work for teachers (letter, 14 January)? If a Year 5 (9/10-year-old) child spends 10 minutes a night learning

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: leuers@independent.co.uk).

spellings, 10 minutes learning number facts, such as tables, and 10 minutes reading from the school/home reading scheme, the child will be well established in homework routine and will have spent his/her half-hour profitably with no additional work for CLAIRE R KING

Sir: You acknowledge (leading article, 14 January) that for some children, home will never be a comfortable environment in which to learn or work.

Birmineham

I suffered that problem during my own schooldays in the Fifties. But it did not stop me doing my homework and excelling in my examinations. I did all my homework in the public study centres that used to be provided in every town on weekday evenings - the reference room of the oublic library.

Here under one roof could be found ample study desks in regulated peace and quiet, in a centrally heated information esource centre, with fully trained staff on hand to answer questions. Many public libraries now have the addition of computers and the Internet to make them ideal homework centres for young people who want to learn. It was in the public library, not the classroom, that I discovered that I could achieve an "A" by adding value to my homework by reference to the books on the library shelves.

Unfortunately, today's public libraries are often closed on weekday evenings, as a result of

about the survival of

Justice for poets at Arts Council

Sir: I'm glad to say that my remark to your arts correspondent that the Arts Council "does not give a shit poetry" (report. 14 January) seems to be out of date. Thanks to Marianne

Macdonald's article, I've had discussions with Andrew Motion, the new chairman of the Arts Council Literature Panel, in the BBC 2 Newsnight studios.

He assured me that he was working hard on schemes to help finance poetry and individual poets most probably from lottery funds. This is a very welcome change of

policy for the Arts Council, and Andrew Motion, a man of great gifts and integrity, deserves the support of all poets and lovers of ADRIAN MITCHELL London NW5

Sir: I am not sure what provoked Adrian Mitchell's outburst about the Arts Council's attitude to poetry, but he chose a peculiar moment for it: the presentation of the annual T S Eliot Prize. This award is administered by the Poetry Book Society, which is funded by the Arts Council.

Last year the Arts Council published a national survey on attitudes to poetry, which this year will inform a new policy document in which the needs of individual poets are highlighted. We estimate that 89.5 per cent of our current expenditure on literature is poetryrelated. This includes support for the Poetry Society, National Poetry Day, individual writers, poetry tours, poetry magazines and poetry publishers.

The Arts Council has a good track record of support for poetry, though we acknowledge that poets of quality could of course do with more support. Dr ALASTAIR NIVEN

Director of Literature
The Arts Council of England London SWI

Government cut-backs on local

Sir: In the Sixties I served under a

secondary head who was as keen on

compulsory, timed homework as

election agenda", 13 January). We had a homework timetable

with times specified, homework

diaries, parental signatures each

signatures with spot checks by the

head. The Reichsbahn would have

"What if the lesson doesn't go the

nothing worthwhile to set?" His

Sir. Jonathan Dalton (letter, 14

The difference in salary

expectations over a normal

working life will mean that five

Jonathan gains at least two A-

levels, this is likely to double.

JOHN PECKHAM

Bramhall, Cheshire

GCSEs at grade C and above are

worth about £50,000 on average. If

Head Teacher, Bramhall High School

Sir: I fully agree with Jonathan

area, they leave for secondary

Dalton. My children live in a rural

school before eight in the morning

and return nearly nine hours later.

bring their school week well beyond

maximum week for adult Europeans.

the 48 hours considered the

LINDA BARLEY

Spilsby, Lincolnshire

Ninety minutes of homework will

January) asks for a minimum wage of

£2,000 per annum to attend school.

reply? "Set something just to keep

night, form teachers' counter-

been envious. We said to him:

way we planned and there's

the parents happy."

KEŃ CLARK

Bedford

Tony Blair ("Schools head Blair's

authority expenditure. MARY JAGGER

Claygate , Startey

Bump-started

Sir: I was most interested in your article on phrenology ("Bumpstarting a stalled pseudo-science". 11 January). When I was about to leave school at 16, back in 1936, I had no idea what career I would like to follow (no career advisers in those days) so my mother took me to see a phrenologist: I think it was in Ludgate Circus, in the City of

After looking at me for some time and measuring my head with callipers, he announced that I should either be a dentist or an engineer. As the idea of looking in people's mouths did not appeal, I was soon apprenticed to BTH, electrical engineers, and over 50 vears later I was still at it. MERVYN J. THOMAS. Worthing, West Sussex

Victorian value

Sir: You report (14 January) that the Millennium Exhibition will cost £580m, will expect 10 million visitors and may make a loss..

The Great Exhibition of 1851 cost £14.8m (at 1997 prices) all subscribed by the private sector, received 6,039,145 visitors and made a profit of £8.2m, still being applied to charitable purposes. An odious comparison indeed!

PATRICK MIDDLETON Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 London SW7

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Double standards for terrorists

Even the dogs on the streets of Belfast know that the loyalist paramilitaries have broken their ceasefire. Why, then, are they still at the peace talks, asks David McKittrick

he tooth fairy made Ireland politics, this week, brandished with biting wit by one QC against another.

UK Unionist Party leader Robert McCartney used the mythical creature to slice through Sir Patrick Mayhew's reluctance to blame loyalists for the two boobytrap bombs placed under republican cars

He combined scorn and bitter Belfast humour to challenge the Northern Ireland Secretary's obtuscations - "Do you think it was the tooth fairy that's planted the bombs? Do you think it is a band of tooth fairies that are breaking legs and crucifying people throughout Northern Ireland?"

He was not the only one to believe that Sir Patrick was telling fairy tales with his assertions, in the teeth of all the evidence, that the loyalist ceasefire was intact. The minister's claims were greeted with general derision in political circles.

More amusement greeted the assertion of his deputy, Sir John Wheeler, who employed considerable linguistic ingenuity to describe the loyalist ceasefire as "partially intact". Yet this was more than just an opportunity to chuckle at a minister's public discomfiture.

far-reaching questions about this government's approach to Northern Ireland and the peace

It is worth asking how a minister came to be making statements that nobody in Ireland believes and how the Government exposed itself to such ridicule. It is also worth looking at the likely lasting effects of the whole bizarre

The dogs in the street knew loyalists planted the bomb that injured republican Eddie Copeland, and the device that a Londonderry republican spotted beneath his car. Loyalist sources said it; so did security sources; and so, in a radio interview, did RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan. Sir Patrick's motivation in

striking a pose so much at odds with reality was to avoid having the political representatives of loyalist paramilitary groups expelled from the Stormont talks. The arguments in favour enough.

Fringe loyalists such as David Ervine and Gary McMichael have won widespread respect for their performance. They are articulate and, in the eyes of most observers, genuine when they say they want to move their associates away from paramilitarism and into politics.

The two fringe loyalist parties, the Progressive Union-

having won 5.7 per cent of the vote in an election last year. But it is also well understood that they have strong links with the paramilitaries and in effect speak for them.

They were allowed to join the more orthodox parties at the talks because the loyalist ceasefire was still in existence and because they formally subscribed to the Mitchell principles of non-violence. In doing so they solemnly declared their "total and absolute commitment to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues". Yet they have repeatedly refused to condemn the bombings. The boobytrap attacks were

not the only departure from these high ideals. Last summer a loyalist renegade outfit killed a Catholic. The paramilitary bosses then issued a public death threat against two of the dissidents. Like the IRA, the loyalist groups persist in carrying out frequent savage "punishment attacks" in the ghettos. Like the IRA, they have decommissioned none of their weapons, and show no sign of ever doing so.

In fact their ceasefire, declared in October 1994, makes it clear that their suspension of violence is highly conditional. It was, and is, con-



their belief that the union with Britain is safe.

'n sum, it is not perfectionist pedantry to conclude L that the loyalist record of commitment to democratic means alone is far from perfect. There has been a fair bit of what Sir Patrick's deputy, Michael Ancram, described this week as dishonouring of the democratic principle". If the Mitchell principles are to be strictly adhered to. it is clear there are telling arguments for their ejection.

But it is also clear that ministers will do everything they can to keep the loyalists at the table: warts, boobytraps and all. Their approach is not purist but purely pragmatic, for there are strong reasons for not ban-

ishing the loyalists.

Principal among these is the saving of lives. The hard fact is that casting out the loyalists would almost certainly produce an escalation in violence. Some of the political loyalists say privately that their presence at the

Where is the next election?

No. It is also almost upon

And what will it bring, this

us. Coming ever nearer

and nearer. Imminent.

imminent election?

How many clichés?

shake a stick at.

He is raring.

very eager.

Clichés galore. Loadsa

More clichés than what?

Good. How is the Prime

Raring? Raring to what?

For what is he eager?

Sorry. Raring to go. He is

More clichés than you can

Minister looking forward to

clichés. More clichés.

Clichés.

Is it just in the offing?

In the offing.

republican violence and on and that without this access to political life the ceasefire would have collapsed long ago. Their expulsion from the

talks, they argue, would remove this crucial political constraint: the paramilitary bosses would abandon the experiment of giving politics a chance and go back to war, with a vengeance. The IRA, with its recent

attacks, is either banking on such a violent loyalist upsurge or is at best indifferent to it. If both sides take to the field again together, the result is likely to be a new spiral of violence on a scale not seen for years. Such a scenario would mean not only loss of life but also greatly reduced chances of reviving the peace process or maintaining the talks process.

This perspective was summed up by Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, who urged caution and warned: "We must not act in a precipitate way so as to bring about more vio-lence." This approach, if applied to the IRA at any stage, would be instantly denounced by the Government and Union-

Another cogent argument is that the banishment of the lovalists would probably wreck the talks themselves. With Sinn

Fein absent and the talks

remaining deadlocked on the arms decommissioning issue, the talks have little real public credibility as it is. A loyalist departure could finish them off. Even if it did not do so imme-

diately, it would practically preclude the possibility of any eventual agreement in negotiations. McCarmey and his close ally, Ian Paisley, have made it plain enough that they have no interest in reaching a deal with nationalists.

Trimble has shown no enthusiasm in this direction either; but for the talks to have even a notional chance of success it is necessary to envisage not a Hume-Adams agreement but a Hume-Trimble accord. Some in government cling to the hope that this might be possible, on the far side of the general election.

But for that to come about Trimble would need a top-up sus" from each community and realistically the only candidates in sight to give him support are the fringe loyalists. If the loyalists go, they will therefore take with them most of the remaining hopes for a negotiated

uch considerations help explain why Sir Patrick, Ofaced with such a dilemma, opted to try to keep the loyalists inside the tent. But in doing so not with some degree of frankness, but rather with an explanation that can only be described as credibilityfree, he has probably stored up

trouble for his successor. This is because his stance will be cited, for years ahead, in the never-ending and crucially important debate within Irish nationalism on whether Britain is neutral in Ireland, and whether it deals even-handedly with Unionists and nationalists. Its importance lies in the fact that the IRA uses the assertion that the British are partisanly pro-Unionist to

is neutral have taken a real pounding in recent months

Those who argue that Britain from their opponents, who argue that the Government kept the republicans out of talks and refused to criticise Trimble and other Unionist summer's immensely damaging marching confrontation at Drumcree. Now, the charge goes,

self as determined to keep the loyalists in talks as he has been to keep the republicans out. Sinn Fein's press office on the Falls Road, aware of the Government's vulnerability on this point, has all week been churn ing out press releases

hypocrisy and worse. inn Fein scent an coming from all

to impossible to deny that the Government

reats republican and loyalist terrorists in different ways. The IRA, seeking to overthrow the state, has killed around 2,000 the British security forces. The organisation ignites deep passions in the Government, triggering a strong emotional charge among many policy-makers.

The loyalists, who say they fight to maintain the state, have killed around 1.000 people, most of whom have been Catholic civilians. The official mind sees them as less threatening, and is able to deal with their menace in a less heated, more

clinical way The 1994 IRA cessa tion elicited from the Government, almost instinctively, a challenging and generally confrontational stance. A very dif ferent instinct was visible this week towards the loyalist side in Northern Ireland: a sense that every effort had to be made to coax and help them make the transition from terror to talks.

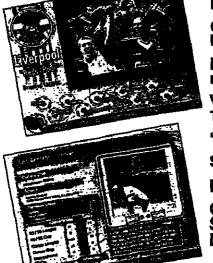
Nationalist Ireland is very receptive to the concept of welcoming prodigals into the fold; Unionist Ulster less so. But both sides would have welcomed a more honest explanation of government policy than they had this week no one likes condescension, or having their intelligence insulted.

But even so, the sense that the Government has one set of standards for the loyalists and another for republicans has rarely been more heightened. During the peace process the republicans were handled as though radioactive; now the loyalists are benefiting from pragmatism in plenty. The belief that double standards are being employed, and the image of Sir Patrick and his tooth fairies, will take a long time to dispel.

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The fray. And before he enters the fray, what part of his clothing will he roll up? His trouser-legs?

I think not. Higher ...

His sleeves! He will roll up his sleeves and get down to

Good. But tell me, if the Prime Minister is raring to go, why has he waited so long? Why has he not called an election named after a popular card game?

A snap election? Exactly.

Because he has been biding. Biding what?

waiting. Just waiting? No. He has also been

His time. He has also been

seeing. Waiting and seeing. And yet the PM enjoys elections?

Yes. That is because he is a glutton. For what corrective treatment is he à glutton?

For punishment. So he will come out. What will the PM be doing as he comes out?



Miles Kington

Fighting. What will he do with this

He will take it. Where will he take the fight? To the enemy.

Is he a good sighter? Oh, yes. He can dish it out. But that isn't all he can do,

No. He can also take it. On what part of the anatomy can he take it?

The election clichés will come out fighting His chin. Despite his His ignorance? What does

he not know?

In what undignified position will he not take it?

Lying down. Thank you. Do people think he can win?

Some do. They think he is on a small breakfast item. On what small breakfast item do they think John Major is?

A roll. But others think be

Is he on a hiding to a very small number? Yes. He is on a hiding to

I see. Will he give up? Never. He will always

At what?

At straws. And in what part of the atmosphere are these straws

of which you speak?

So this could be quite a tussle, this election?

Oh, yes. It will be a cliffhanger. What part of their anatomy will people be biting?

Their nails. What noise will the battle

Ding dong. And where will it go to? The wire.

Thank you, Mr cliché expert. Not at all. Incidentally ...

There is a good chance that many Irish readers will write in and complain that we have stolen this cliché

expert idea from their Myles na Gopaleen. Oh, dear. And what do we tell them?

That he stole it from an American called Frank Sullivan in the first place.

Thank you.

British beco

Eu th the the lar

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attempt to justify its acts of

Those who argue that Britan

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from their opponents, who argue that the Governmen

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talks and refused to criticis.

Trimble and other Unions

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summer's immensely damaging marching confinua

Now, the charge goe

Sir Patrick has shown him

self as determined to keep

the loyalists in talks as he has

been to keep the republican

out. Sinn Fein's press office

on the Falls Road, aware

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has all week been chum-

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It is in fact near

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The 1994 IRA 0000

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terent instinct was visible the

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Northern Ireland, a sense that

every effort had to be made to

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me: put slug of vermouth in

jug with ice. Shake around a bit. Up-end over sink, losing

Pour vermouth-flavoured ice

shake, strain into ice-frosted

'assive excitement in

and gin in cocktail shaker,

The barmaid, a seraphic

blonde whose bathwater

Ghost passing through,

of the Virgin Mary.

British Airways becomes a campaign issue

hat could be juicier? It's a Euro-sceptic's dream. Neatly timed for the election, a tailor-made row with Europe. The villain is not merely a foreigner, but a European Commissioner who threatens to take Britain to court and has the backing of fellow Commissioner Neil Kin-

The issue is a deal with American Airlines which will increase the domination of British Airways, the dashing success story of the Government's privatisation prog-ramme, as a global force, and which the Commission wants to unravel. Surely it's a gift to the Tories, just the chance John Major and his President of the Board of Trade. Ian Lang, need to show that they are ready to stand up to Brussels.

That's certainly the version currently running nightly in the Tory tabloids. And it isn't completely baseless. It wasn't necessarily all that smart for Karel Van Miert, the EU's Competition Commissioner, to threaten court action in his otherwise rather persuasive letter expressing concern about the BA American deal. Some of those criticising Mr Van Miert seem to forget that he is acting to enforce competition in the single market - the one aspect of the EU to which Margaret Thatcher, among many others, wholeheartedly

signed up. There are big arguments among lawyers over whether it is a matter of EC competence at all. The Labour Party, for example, in contrast to its former leader, cautiously accepts the Government's argument that the Commission does not have the authority to decide whether the deal is or isn't competitive. And it rankles that for too many years European aviation wasn't exactly a showpiece of free competition. Artificially high fares and a history of some £7.5bn in EC-sanctioned subsidies to bale out national airlines don't exactly inspire confidence in the Commission as the traveller's best friend.

But the primary row isn't, or shouldn't be, about Europe at all. The real themes are large but domestic: privatisation and how it was carried out; competition policy; the influence of industry on the political process. The two main business players, Bob Ayling, BA's chairman, and Virgin's Richard Branson, are figures so big that politicians in both the main parties would cheerfully sell their own grandmothers in return for a pre-election endorsement from either. And it isn't at all clear that this is going to be such an easy issue for the Government in the run-up to the election.

The bald facts, unlike everything else in this story, are relatively simple: British Airways currently operates 244 flights a week from Britain to 22 US airports. American Airlines runs only six fewer, between seven US airports to 12 destinations in Europe. Under an "alliance" concluded with the US airline, BA will stop competing with American on all these routes and they will both co-operate instead, sharing the

Donald Macintyre

But the row should not be about Europe the real themes are large but domestic

undoubtedly handsome profits between them. The Office of Fair Trading, which looked at the deal,

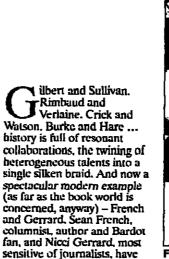
accepted that it could go ahead without a reference to the Monopolies Commission provided that British Airways gave up - by selling rather than donating - 168 "slots" (or 84 return journey routes) to other airlines. The main rival, Virgin, is arguing ferociously (and, naturally, in its own interest) that this stipulation is nowhere near stringent enough to guarantee competition, that the alliance will control up to 70 percent of the transatlantic market, that prices will drop at first to deter new entrants to the market, and then rise steeply over subsequent years, and that the deal is just plain non-competitive. So, too, do BA's other rivals, and so does Mr Van Miert, who has pointed out that on 13 routes the two airlines will now enjoy a 100 per cent monopoly and on some others, such as London-New York, London-Boston and London-Chicago, an 80 per cent one.

The Consumers' Association, in a fairly devastating submission to the OFT, warned that the deal would "act to limit real, effective choice for consumers on transatlantic routes". It also warned that the "open skies" agreement which the US authorities are

insisting must be a price for any deal – and which Virgin claims will offer rival US airlines access to Europe without widening access to the internal US market - should be struck in the interest of consumers and not 'as a response to airline directed pressure".

Whitehall gossip has it that Lang is quite sympathetic to the competition argument but has been under heavy pressure from Michael Heseltine, a man who tends to think that in industry big is beautiful, to OK the deal. There have even been dark - and wholly unsubstantiated - hints that Ayling's generous involvement with the millennium celebrations may be connected with the Government's backing. But you don't have to buy conspiracy theories to recognise that, after several years of ruthless campaigning to fight off competition in the airline industry, British Airways, from Lord King on, have been very big players indeed. However, the real problem is that British

Airways was privatised in something so near monopolistic form, and given overwhelming advantage in terms of "slots" at Heathrow, the world's busiest airport. Maybe that was necessary to get the flotation of what had been an ailing state company off the ground. But it raises a real question over whether, having gone from success to success, it should be operating on a more level playing field. And that's a particularly sharp choice for the party of competition. It would be odd if commercial airline passengers did not even enjoy the choice which ministers say is so important for consumers of the state education system. Lang should refer the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission without delay.



just hit the big time. Their co-written novel, The Memory Game, came out this week to a chorus of praise and a background twittering of the purest envy. This is because, not only are the co-authors richer by an advance of (grit teeth) £250,000, they're also married; the story of their blissful union was told in the "Tiddler" supplement of last Sunday's Observer. There, the nation's green-eyed horde of chronically blocked and not-got-round-to-it-yet journalists manque could read of French and Gerrard's rapturous creative duet - of the plot's gestation across the kitchen table, the married pair's couples of their acquaintance. harmonious mutual editing (seemingly as carefree as the



grooming of primates in

of gin on which knotty

Regent's Park), the tidal wave

Burke and Hare: a resonant

narrative impasses were swept away, the gradual realisation that it was "a darker, scarier anticipated", the finished manuscript, the call from the agent while they were holidaying in Sweden, the two-book deal ...

I'd be happy to report that everyone wished them well so married, so successful, so tucky - but honesty compels otherwise. The prevailing note on Monday morning was of scores of journalists violently yanking the few sad last grey hairs (Keats, you know) from



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French and Gerrard: a literary duet to inspire pure envy

their heads. "Did you read that thing in the Observer? cried one. "I couldn't decide whether to shred it, burn it. Blu-Tac it to the darthoard or just jump up and down on it, screaming." Others, possibly incensed by the special-offer advertisement for the novel that appeared with the article ("make Sean and Nicci even richer!") contented themselves with ripping "The Tiddler" in half like a very small telephone directory literary journalists are rarely champagne and munched built on robust lines - or sending it off, anonymously, to famously war-torn bookish

ntroubled by these seismic waves, French and Gerrard threw a party on Tuesday to launch their new offspring. Their other productions (they have several gorgeous little girls) tumbled winsomely on the stairs and paraded about in silk and taffeta. I paused outside to look for the blue plaque commemorating the most famous front doorstep in literary London (it's the one on which Jeanette Winterson and her girlfriend Peggy Reynolds stood, a few years ago, when they came to berate Ms Gerrard for a disobliging critique, as the latter was hosting a dinner party) but it

appeared to have been stolen. Inside the conversation was all about the recent shake-up in the publishing world -Helen Fraser, the universally liked boss of the Reed Group Methuen and Sinclair-Stevenson) is leaving to run the Penguin Group (Viking, Penguin, Hamish Hamilton and Michael Joseph) thus putting her a notch above the equally-admired "Queen of Publishing", Clare Alexander, and therefore promising an interesting, if terribly polite, battle for supremacy between the two divas in coming months. The talk also turned, again, to Ms Winterson's

recent confession about how she once used to have sex with upper-crust ladies in Sloane Square, in return for Le Creuset saucepans. What especially baffled people was her assertion that "their husbands would never miss them". Did this mean that her clients returned, dizzy with Sapphic rapture, to their homes in Hampshire or Gloucestershire, and sent her their cast-iron kitchenware through the post? But as we talked and drank

vegetarian spring rolls, an uncomfortable detail stole over us. In a corner of the kitchen, a handsome woman of mature years lay recumbent on a pine plank as all around her people chatted unconcerned, some of them even callously addressing her supine form. Was it a tableau vivant of the French-Gerrard novel (in which a woman disappears from the middle of a close-knit family)? Actually no, it was Ms Gerrard's mother, who has a bad back. As, I dare say, have French and Gerrard too from having it slapped, just that teeny weeny bit too hard.

t one moment in the

Observer piece. Ms twist until drop appears, put Gerrard quotes a result in glass. Serve. recipe for dry Martini, recommending "... a few difficult, was it? drops, perhaps a teaspoon, not more, of dry vermouth, then a archaeology-land. The Greek minister slosh of gin ... ". Finding the exact constituent quantities of this simple drink seem to have of culture has just announced sophisticated brains in the Lyceum" in central Athens. past. The precise ratio of gin where Aristotle, the renowned to dry vermouth has been philosopher and alcoholic, discussed, documented and invented metaphysics, drama argued over as if it were a criticism and most of Western matter of Biblical exegesis. civilisation. Departing from The point is, it seems, to keep the simplistic received notion the vermouth quantity to the that the "lyceum" was some utterest minimum. Ms kind of school or debating Gerrard's "perhaps a teaspoon" would, I'm afraid, academy, another Ministry of Culture person claims that it's not go down well with the one of three major barmen of Anchorage, Alaska gymnasiums" of ancient who traditionally fill a jug with Athens. By a spooky

harmony in the kitchen as the plot thickens it's enough to turn a writer green-eyed john walsh ice and gin, then remove the cork from a vermouth bottle, hold it above the surface of the gin and whisper "vermoooth..." over the quivering meniscus. The late Robert Morley, when he was directing an American play in the Haymarket, instructed the actor Ian Carmichael how to make an on-stage dry Martini: put gin and ice in jug. then attach scent-spray bulb to a vermouth bottle and direct a single puff over the top of the jug. Others think the passage of the sun's rays through a vermouth bottle is quite enough of an intrusion, while that shocking old blasphemer, Luis Bunuel, used to insist that the blending of vermouth and gin should be on a par

coincidence, vesterday's Daily Telegraph revealed that the Whiteball Palace near Downing Street, built by Ladbroke Grove, and watched Henry VIII in 1531, far from being a rest home for clapped-out bureaucrats, was in fact designed as a zippy royal sports complex with tennis courts, bowling alleys, cock-fighting pits and, I've no doubt, ye olde bungey-jumpinge roofe. It was, if you like, "the original Harbour vermouth, draining ice cubes. Club". It would be nice to see it and the original Lyceum restored to their former glory cocktail glass. Cut bit of lime, And after the Lyceum, I look forward to the discovery of "the original Locarno", "the There now. That wasn't too original Roseland" and "the original Palais de Danse".



A peace deal with a fuse attached

Netanyahu's tough stance has left him with an accord he never wanted, says Patrick Cockburn

ew agreements have been nego-tiated in such a spirit of suspicion and ill-will as prevailed during the four months it took to decide upon Israel's partial withdrawal from Hebron and the West Bank.

Even the arguments successfully used by King Hussein of Jordan last Sunday to persuade Yasser Arafat to break the stalemate in the talks, by agreeing to postpone Israeli withdrawal until the middle of next year. appealed to the deep distrust with which the Palestinian leader regards Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime

"If you're too firm, Bibi [Netanyahu] will win and there won't be a Hebron withdrawal," King Hussein reportedly told Mr Arafat in Gaza. "Even if you don't trust him, it's better to commit Netanyahu to a particular date for the further redeployment. And if Netanyahu doesn't fulfil his commitment, you will be able to raise an international hue and cry."

The fact that the agreement reached early yesterday morning is so wideranging, covering far more than the pull-out from Hebron, owes much to a miscalculation made by Mr Netanyahu. On becoming prime minister last June he delayed the start of the talks about Hebron and then prolonged them for months. His aim was to focus attention on Hebron and to avoid talking about more important aspects of the accord signed by the defeated Labour government in 1995 whereby the Israeli army was to withdraw in three stages from Palestinian

Withdrawal from Hebron, a Palestinian city of 120,000, does not significantly after the balance of power between Israel and the Palestinians on the West Bank. It is the seventh such town to be evacuated by the Israeli army. Experience shows that these towns can easily be isolated and economically crippled by a few Israeli



checkpoints. But once Israel redeploys from the villages, where 900,000 out of 1.3 million Palestinians on the West Bank live, then Palestinian control will cease to be confined to small cantons. In retrospect, from his point of view,

Mr Netanyahu might have been better to pull out of Hebron months ago. The Labour government had signed a good deal in 1995 whereby the 400 Jewish settlers - defended by some 1,000 soldiers - would stay in 20 per cent of the city under Israeli control, Palestinians in Hebron at the time were angered by the extent of Mr Arafat's concessions. Mr Netanyahu, for all his claims of a sell-out during the election, found it dif-

ficult to improve on them. Mr Netanyahu's strategy of focusing on Hebron was based on his belief, often repeated in his books and speeches, that the Labour government

had exaggerated the political strength of Palestinians and the Arab world, unnecessarily raising their expectations of Israeli concessions. Be tough with them, he said, and they will come running. It was a thesis the new prime minister put to the test with a series of provocations, culminating in opening the tunnel in the Muslim quarter of

The result was exactly contrary to what Mr Netanyahu expected. The Palestinian cities exploded. In one day 15 Israelis and 60 Palestinians were killed. The Arab world was enraged. King Hussein, the Arab leader most sympathetic to Mr Netanyahu, went to the prison in Jordan that housed the leader of the group opposed to better relations with Israel, and personally drove him home. Last weekend, the moderate Egyptian ambassador in Tel

Jerusalem last September.

Aviv said Egypt's peace treaty with Israel was close to collapse. Mr Netanyahu first attracted atten-

tion as a young diplomat in Washington in 1983 when he wrote an article in The Wall Street Journal saying the Palestinians were not at the centre of the problems of the Middle East. Within months of taking office he found he was wrong, and he has not been able to develop an alternative strategy. After September Israel was diplomatically isolated. One Israeli commentator worked out that Israel's relations had worsened with 26 states during Mr Netanyahu's first 100 days as prime minister.

The fighting in September also delivered Mr Netanyahu into the hands of the US. He had criticised Shinnon Peres, the defeated prime minister, for being too dependent on the US. But in

October he attended a summit in Washington with Mr Arafat and King Hussein. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak refused to come. The Israeli leader prided himself that he made no concessions, but he did accept US mediation. Dennis Ross, the American peace envoy, was denounced by Palestinians as being pro-Israeli, but US mediation in practice strengthened the Palestinian hand.

Mr Netanyahu's political position has weakened over the last six months for other reasons. He was never liked by the Israeli establishment in the army, bureaucracy, secret services and the media. Seeing himself, not wholly wrongly, as surrounded by enemies, he worked with a small coterie of untried advisers from the far right. David Bar-Illan, one of his closest aides, provoked hostility and ridicule in the US when he denounced a New York Times columnist as an emissary of anti-Zionist

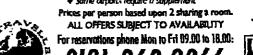
opinion. Supporters of the Oslo agreement in Israel were jubilant yesterday that with the Hebron agreement Mr Netanyahu and his party have come to a new realism about the Palestinians. It is true that they will be withdrawing from territory that they once said was given by God to the Jews. Many on the right now regard a Palestinian state as

A problem with this optimistic view is that the accord agreed in Gaza yesterday is the outcome of the sum total of the pressures brought to bear on Mr Netanyahu rather than a new policy. While Mr Arafat expects 90 per cent of the West Bank, Mr Netanyahu has been telling his supporters that he might hand over less than half. Israeli settlers have in the past reacted to political isolation with extreme violence. Delay in Israeli withdrawal from rural parts of the West Bank gives them a full 18 months to make attacks. The peace accord contains a time bomb that has

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Water regulator warns one-off price cuts possible

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Privatised water companies could be hit by the kind of savage one-off price cut which has driven British Gas to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the industry regulator

warned yesterday.
Ian Byatt told MPs at the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee that the idea of one-off price cuts, which were rejected in his last price review in 1994, were firmly back on the agenda.

cised excess profits earned by the companies, he said: "If these high returns continue ... then I would think much more in terms of a once and for all reduction in prices as has happened in the energy industries."
The price cuts planned for British

Gas's pipeline network, TransCo, by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, led to an unprecedented public row and the high risk decision by the company to take the issue to the MMC. Ms Sportiswoode wants to slash TransCo's revenues by 20 per gets. The current price formula

The principle of a dramatic oneoff cut, known in regulatory circles as a "P-nought", was also used by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, in his recent price cap for National Grid which cuts charges by 20 per cent from April. The move reflects an increasingly

tough stance by Mr Byatt in recent months as several of the 10 privatised water and sewerage businesses have failed to meet Ofwat investment tartion to pay for the huge backlog of under-investment from before the in-

dustry sell-off. Mr Byatt told MPs his ideal rate of return on investment for water companies was some 5 to 6 per cent, compared with a current average rate of return earned by the 10 companies of more than 12 per cent, with Welsh Water and Northumbrian Water earning the highest returns.

Simon Flowers, head of utilities at Nat West Markets, said a one-off cut

Commenting on the much critical factor seed excess profits earned by the seed excess profits earned by the average of 1.5 per cent above infla-first year, though the crucial factor average of 1.5 per cent above infla-first year, though the crucial factor average of 1.5 per cent above infla-first year, though the crucial factor average bills.

And the much critical factor are a cut on the scale of that planned for a cut on the scale of that planned for a cut on the scale of that planned for average bills.

British Gas would be "ridiculous". He average bills. was whether prices rose or fell in fol-lowing years. This would seem to be a vindication of the strategy at Of-gas. In the light of the British Gas example Ian Byatt has been portrayed as being the most lenient regulator on prices, but he's been rattling the companies' cages for

some months now." he commented. Last night, water companies reacted with scepticism to the idea of one-off price cuts. Barry Delabour, head of regulation for Southern Water, said

continued: "We will be arguing that there's still heavy investment needed and we have got the heaviest investment programme of all."

However, Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, was unimpressed by the move. "It's a bit late in the day and I don't think this will do anything permanent."

The current price control period was originally intended to last from the 10 years from 1995, with increases

formula by 1999 and has indicated recently that from 2000 the companies can expect cuts in real terms along the lines of those in other regulated industries.

Mr Byatt has already warned that he may ask some companies not to implement the full price increases from April. Water bills have to be sent out in advance of the next billing year, and need to be printed from the

Pension fund voices fears over Morgan Grenfell

Jill Treanor and Patrick Tooher

A top pension fund client of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management indicated yesterday that the sudden suspension of Nicola Horlick, one of the City's best known fund managers, could be the de-cisive factor in prompting it to take its business elsewhere.

This would come as a severe blow to Morgan Grenfell, which has been battling to rebuild morale, and retain clients, after the Peter Young affair which had already cost the jobs of some of the most highly respected names at the group, including Keith Percy, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

Geoff Henry, chief executive of the Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund, which has around £50m invested with MGAM. said the trustees of his fund were concerned about the management structure of the group when the antics of Peter Young were uncovered.

the suspension of Mrs Horlick] is from the situation. That is a destabilisation," said Mr Henry. The trustees' previous concern had not been about the investment track record, but more about the internal management of the operation, he said.

However, Morgan Grenfell was understood to be confident that it would not lose business as a result of the affair.

Mrs Horlick was suspended after Deutsche Morgan Grenfell suspected that had she attempted to lure as many as 20 col-leagues from the fund around this time of year. This is



Tim Horlick, Nicola's banker husband, faces a legal action

management group to join a rival invesment management firm. But the move appears to have backfired after she approached potential candidates before signing a conclusive deal with ABN Amro, the Dutch banking group with which she was widely be-

lieved to be in negotiation. "We never comment on who re uncovered. we are talking to before anything "What we're seeing now [with is concluded," a spokesman for ABM Amro in Amsterdam said

> But he added: "We are surprised to be mentioned in the context of poaching, which would, by its nature, imply you are planning to take a whole team, which we are not.

> "When it comes down to talking to individual people, you are not talking about poaching" he

Morgan Grenfell insiders suggested yesterday that Mrs Horlick, like others in the City, had been known to make noises

because bonuses are paid late next month and a resignation threat encourages employers to beef up bonus payments and re-muneration deals.

It emerged yesterday that Mrs Horlick's investment banker husband, Tim, who works at Salomon Brothers, is fighting a legal action by his previous employer, Dresdner Kleinwort

"An injunction was taken out at the end of July and we are still continuing the legal procedings until an acceptable final settlement has been reached," a spokesman for Kleinwort said.

Both Salomon Brothers, which is not cited in the injuction, and Mr Horlick, declined to comment.

The precise details of Mrs Horlick's pay deal remain a mystery although sources said that in a good year her total package could easily top £1m. She was not a director of

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management but is a managing director of another subsidary -Morgan Grenfell Investment A search at Companies House

showed that the highest paid director at Morgan Grenfell Investment Management in the 1995 financial year earned £248,000. But that is likely to exclude any bonus payments. Morgan Grenfell insiders said

they found it perplexing that she might be considering another offer even though was the heir apparent to Robert Smith, the new chief executive of the fund management group.



High flyer: Nicola Horlick, pictured yesterday, could earn a total package of more than Comment, page 21 £1m in a good year at Morgan Grenfell, sources said

BoE appoints **Buxton** as director

John Willcock

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, is one of two new directors appointed yes-terday by the Bank of England. He will be the first serving chairman of a clearing bank to become a member of the court. Alastair Clark, at present a Seputy director of the Bank responsible for the Financial Structure area, will now become

executive director of that The duo replace Sir Jeremy Morse, formerly a chairman of Joyds Bank, and Pen Kent,

who are both retiring. Mr Kent has been a noted troubleshooter for the Bank during his 35 year service, notably in launching the design of Crest following the collapse of the London Stock Exchange's proposed automated share settlement system Taurus four

years ago.
Mr Buxton is a scion of the 20odd Quaker families that originally founded what became Barclays Bank. He joined Barclays in 1963 and worked his way to the top. He is also chairman of the CBI's influential Economic Affairs Committee and chairman of the Overseas Project Board at the DTL Mr Buxand around the City when he combined the jobs of chairman and chief executive at Barlcays in 1993, after the resignation of John Quinton as chairman. This combination of roles went against the Cadbury Committee recomendations, and coincided with a rocky time for Barclays as a huge property lending binge in the late 1980s came home to roost in the form of bad debt provisions.

This criticism turned to praise in 1994 when Mr Buxton ap-Photograph: National Pictures | pointed Martin Taylor as chief

executive. Mr Bunton earned further plaudits when the Bank of England called for help to try and rescue Barings, the merchant bank struck down by

Nick Leeson's unauthorised trading losses. Although the rescue package put together by the Bank was un-successful, Mr Buxton's leadership in co-ordinating support for the attempt will have done him no harm in the Bank's eyes.

In addition yesterday the Bank announced that two directors have been reappointed for further four-year terms:



Andrew Buxton: First active

of Lazard Brothers, and Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros Bank.

John Footman, the Secretary of the Bank and the Bank's chief press officer, will succeed Alastair Clark as deputy director in the Financial Structure area. Mr Footman will be succeeded by Peter Rodgers, at present financial editor of The Independent. As Secretary of the Bank, Mr Rodgers will take over Mr Footman's responsibilities for press matters.

Drop in jobless figures sparks fresh row

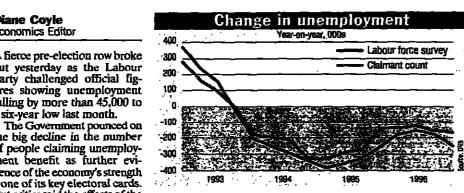
Diane Coyle Economics Editor

A fierce pre-election row broke out yesterday as the Labour Party challenged official fig-ures showing unemployment falling by more than 45,000 to a six-year low last month.

of people claiming unemployment benefit as further evidence of the economy's strength one of its key electoral cards. But critics said the effects of the Jobseekers' Allowance and the benefit fraud hotline made the headline jobless total mean-

John Major, the Prime Minister, described the figures is a "tonic". "Unemployment is falling right across the country and the smile on Britain's face can broaden," Mr Major sud. But Labour's employment

spokesman, Ian McCariney, said the Government's claims were in the realms of fantasy. "Unemployment has struck



England," he said. Labour claimed that 17 nificant changes to the jobless definition had reduced the number of claimants by 529,000. The party cited OECD figures show-

ing nearly one in five non-pen-

sioner households in Britain had nobody in work, one of the highest levels in the industrial world. City experts did not expect yesterday's batch of labour market statistics to affect the Chancellor of the Exchequer's verdict

Source: FT Information

deep into the heart of middle on interest rates at his meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England late yesterday that the true unemployment picture was obscure, and were reassured by separate figures showing that earnings growth

has remained flat. The credibility of the headline jobless total has been undermined by a number of independent reports - including one prepared by the Office for National Statistics last year -calling on the Government to measure unemployment by a hotline. monthly survey which covers people not eligible for benefit, rather than the number of un-employment benefit claimants. But ministers turned down the

advice on grounds of cost. The fresh row broke out yesterday because the quarterly survey of the labour force showed a much smaller drop in unemployment in September-November than the claimant count indicated.

According to the survey, un-employment fell by only 32,000 during those three months, while the number of claimants dropped by 114,000. Yesterday's figures showed a further fall of 45,100 in the claimant count in December, to 1,884,700.

The Treasury said a divergence between the two measures was not unusual, and they tended to move together over time. However, the claimant count has been artificially reduced since the autumn by the intro-

duction of the Jobseekers' Al-

lowance (JSA) and the fraud

The JSA has taken at least 10,000 off the unemployment register, while there have been 135,000 calls to the hotline. But the ONS said it was not possible to estimate the full size of the impact yet, and statisticians also declined to put a figure on the

current trend in unemployment. Other evidence suggested that the labour market is not picking up as much as the headline unemployment total would indicate. In particular, average earnings grew at an underlying rate of 4 per cent in the year to November, the same as the

previous four months. On the other hand, the quarterly labour force survey showed a strong expansion in employment in September-November. The number of people with jobs rose by 130,000.

Unusually, this was mainly due to a rise in the number of fulltime jobs. Of the 283,000 new jobs over the year to November. just over half were part-time.

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BZW simulates battle to minimise the risk

Jill Treamor Banking Correspondent

City dealing rooms are often depicted as battlefields where traders slug it out to win the best price for their trades and make as much money as possible. But BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays, is taking the comparison one step further through a new research project with the Defence Evaluation

and Research Agency (DERA) of the Ministry of Defence. The project - known as the Financial Laboratory Club - will bring simulated battlefields to the dealing room in an attempt to develop new solutions to the problems of risk management in

the City.

BZW hopes the project will allow all levels of its staff to better understand the risks being taken. It should also provide more accurate calculations of

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the amount of capital which needs to be set aside by the bank and also make for accurate,

of financial instruments.

It may all seem far-fetched but according to Martin Dooney, global head of money markets at BZW, the stresses and strains facing the trader in a City dealing room and a fighter pilot flying at 20,000 feet are similar.

and more competitive, pricing

The risks are obviously different. For the crew of a main battle tank it could be missile defences of the opposing force and for the bond trader it could be movement of short-term interest rates," Mr Dooney said. "However, we each have to

develop tactics to counter risk and we need to develop systems which can be used by individuals working under the high stress loads usually associated with high risk environ-

keep it ahead of its rivals in a highly competitive trading environment in which margins are falling and costs of staff

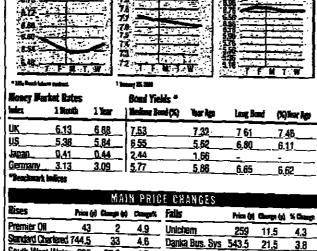
The Club has £1.8m of fund-

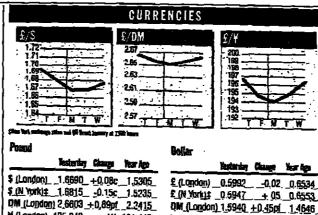
ing for the first two years. Of that, the Government is making a £750,000 grant and BZW is providing £250,000. Regulators such as the Bank & of England are expressing an

interest in the project. While fighter pilots and traders face similar challenges, fighter pilots only receive the most relevant information they need to make decisions. In contrast, traders suffer from what BZW calls information overload - a deluge of statistics about interest and currencies say, are displayed on banks of

computer screens while phones constantly ring.

-33.48





Norwich Union names Harvey as next head Norwich Union yesterday chose

a safe internal succession for the flotation later this year by nomnance director, as heir apparent.

He is to succeed Allan Bridgewater as group chief executive at the end of 1997. Norwich said Mr Harvey has been appointed deputy group chief executive in the meantime, in addition to his existing responsibility.

"The appointment clarifies the question of succession in advance of Norwich Union's planned flotation," company said.

Mr Harvey, 46, joined Nor-wich Union in 1992 as head of chief executive job ahead of the its New Zealand operation, after running Sun Alliance's life inating Richard Harvey, the fireturned to the UK in 1993. became the group's actuary in 1994 and joined the main board

The next stage in the Norwich flotation is scheduled for the spring when there is to be an extraordinary general meeting. A circular giving details of the flotation will be sent out before the extraordinary general meeting to the policyholders who currently own the group.

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Manager and the second Harrist and the state of the st workers to the contract of the * East Midland, Electricity 155 the strict of the service of the ser Cample to the state of the stat Di Elsi Vidland, said can The said of the four them the he fall also reflected the drop of distribution business for borning to delated on the modestry wateriday. Doming the lated on the modestry wateriday.

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figure. Speaking at a public det for loud. In 1995. Bayer had pie the Investment Column yesterde

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2000-2005. However, law 6. Mr Byatt said he would fine formula by 1999 and has me recently that from 2000 fine. nies can expect cuts in test along the lines of those in talk ulated industries.

Mr Byatt has already warn. he may ask some companies. implement the full price in from April. Water hills have sent out in advance of the new year, and need to be printed in end of next month. Comment, &

appoint xton as irector

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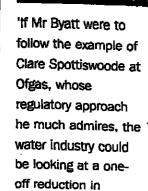
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COMMENT

Byatt puts a plug in water's dividend gusher

When the water industry outlined its "vi-sion of the future" a week ago, one of at Ofgas, whose regulatory approach he the things its crystal ball failed to highlight was the danger of being clobbered by a big one-off cut in charges in three years' time.

That became a distinct possibility yesterday after the industry regulator, Ian Byatt, confided to MPs that he saw much merit in applying the same kind of price controls on the privatised water companies as those used by his opposite numbers in gas and electricity. For the water companies, that would mean a very painful adjustment in 2000 so that efficiency gains flow through much more quickly to customers in the shape of

With a change of government on the horizon, it is scarcely surprising that Mr Byatt should be thinking along such lines. But regardless of the political climate, there's

plenty else driving him in this direction. When the last set of price controls was introduced in 1995, the regulator decided the industry should be allowed to make a return on new investment of 5 to 6 per cent over the 10-year period. The industry is now making returns of about 12 per cent. Under the present regime, efficiency gains are drip fed to customers over a phased period. The effect of imposing a one-off cut in charges would be to ensure that 50 million customers get much of that benefit in one dollop. Supposing he is still in the post, Mr Byatt will not sit down to begin doing any serious sums for at least 18 months. But if he were much admires, the water industry could be looking at a one-off reduction in revenues of £600m to £800m.

Prices in future years would not come down by anywhere near as much, and might even have to go up, to meet the water indus-try's heavy capital investment programmes. Nevertheless the net effect would be a much harsher regulatory environment than

the industry enjoys at present. The water companies have tried to wriggle out of their fate by promising to share an undisclosed proportion of future efficiency gains with customers. Mr Byatt looks like closing off that option. The dividend gusher is not going to be what it was.

Employees call the shots in the City

Ponuses, bonuses, bonuses. Morgan Gren-fell Asset Management pay theirs in late February and few people yet know what they are going to get. Those who think they will be little or nothing point to the £400m cost and rising of the Peter Young debacle - a couple of years' profit for the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell investment banking operation as a whole. But there's another school which says that if MGAM doesn't match the bonus bonanza being experienced else-where in the City, then its best people are

going to walk and there won't be much of a likely impact on MGAM of Ms Horlick's versation of some American executives. In business left.

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It seems unlikely that Nicola Horlick directly played that card in the events that led up to her "suspension" as MGAM's pensions supremo, but the episode has highlighted the problem in no uncertain terms. The City has become a place where employees call the shots, not shareholders or organisations. There could be no more absurd a scenario than the one being acted out at MGAM. Here is an organisation which has failed in spectacular fashion, yet if it punishes its employees, as it should, making them take collegiate responsibility

might end up without a business at all. Perversely, then, Deutsche may have to pay the wretched employees of MGAM an even higher bonus, to compensate, as it were, for the stress and shock of a catastrophe which was collectively of their own making. It is hard to imagine a more Alice in Wonderland world. That, however, is the reality of the City these days.

for and share in the costs of their failure, it

There's almost a parallel to be drawn here with the curse of union power. "What? The company's lost a packet? Not my responsibility, guy. If you don't up the wages we'll all be out." In the virtual economy inhabited by investment bankers, the going rate for a job is constantly bid up, regardless of underlying profitability or real market worth. But back to MGAM. First impressions are often misguided and it is possible that the

impending departure was exaggerated in Business Comment yesterday. A day on, and Morgan Grenfell was claiming the whole thing had been blown out of all proportion. Indeed there was some sense of relief and even satisfaction at such a high flier finally

getting her comeuppance. There's almost certainly an element of male, old school tie backlash in these sentiments. All the same, MGAM is right to point to Ms Horlick's apparent failure to do serious damage to the organisation. She tried to

recruit a team to take with her, allegedly, and they all said no. Perhaps loyalty still counts for something after all. But we are going to have to wait until the bonus is declared and paid to judge the strength of that, aren't we?

Keep war games out of the dealing rooms

The Seven Military Classics of Ancient China has become a management bible in the US. a set of military writings that enthusiasts claim provides the seeds of success in business. Some managers even believe the techniques of Chinese warfare have been the secret ingredient behind the explosive growth of Taiwan, Japan and Korea. That sounds like a dose of backwoods paranoia about the Eastern peril. Nevertheless, quotes from Sun Tzu's The Art of War or The Three Strategies of Huang Shilt-kung drop easily into the conthis country, thank heavens, they would be more likely to arouse gales of sceptical laugh-

So is BZW deploying the same management strategy in its new war games project with the Defence Research Agency? It sounds like it, with all the talk of dealing rooms as battlefields and the link with the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency of the Ministry of Defence. The idea of a City trader using the same electronic display screen as a fighter pilot to decide when to drop his stock on the market, rather than his bombs on the enemy, sounds as crazy as using Sun Tzu to plan a new factory extension.

However, there is a seed of commonsense within this madness. There are a large num-ber of engineers working in the City, includ-ing a real rocket scientist at CSFP. They have brought the computing and mathematical skills essential to their own disciplines to bear on complex market movements and especially the pricing of derivatives. Since much of modern war is to do with rapid evalnation of risk, the disciplines do overlap and there probably is something the City can

But there is also a danger. If all traders acted on the advice, if not the orders, of a computer display, it could bring a new form of instability into the markets. Remember programme trading, and the havoc that wreaked in 1987 when everybody moved the

Christmas cheer fails to reach all retailers

Kingfisher and Allders, the department store operator, became the latest retailers to report an upbeat message on Christmas trading yesterday. However, poor figures from Laura Ashley, where sales growth was modest, and Body Shop, where sales were down on last year, showed that the upturn in consumer spending has not been enjoyed across the high

With more than a dozen retailers now having issued their Christmas trading statements, it trading has been healthy rather than a bonanza

Clive Vaughan of Verdict Research said: "If there is a trend out there it is that the retailers who are appealing to the upper ends of their markets are doing well." He noted that in jewellery, Ernest Jones, Goldsmiths and Asprey were doing well. But at the lower end of the market, sales growth at Argos and H Samuel had been less im-

seeing the Tessa effect," Mr

"To some effect we are still

IN BRIEF

Vaughan said, "That benefited mainly older, more affluent people and so we are seeing good sales of upmarket cars, like Jaguars, of longer haul holidays.

and of top end furniture and home computers, "I here are a lot of people out there who are getting bonuses this year who didn't receive them last time. If there is a message here it is that the richer consumers seem to be getting richer. But for the mass of the population things are growing

quite slowly."

It is a view supported by Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Mees Pierson, "Consumers are still a bit scarred by the recession and the effect that had on confidence.

Of yesterday's trading statements, Kingfisher's was the most prominent with good sales increases encouraging analysts to upgrade their profits forecasts to around £280m for the current

Kingfisher's group sales in the nine weeks to 4 January increased by 7.8 per cent on a likefor-like basis compared with last

Star performers were B&Q

Christmas trading on the high street

The winners

sales incr on last yr (%)* John Lewis (extuding Waitrose) JJB Sports 12 Aliders 9.8 Dixons (Incl Currys, PC World, The Link) Kingfisher (Woolworths, B&Q, Comet, Superdrug) Boots (incl Halfords, Do It All, Fads)

> The losers sales changes on last vr (%)*

Body Shoo Sears (Selfridges, British Shoe, Wallis, Adams Laura Ashley

like-for-like sales increases, stripping out new store openings "half the rate of City expectations

and Comet, where sales grew by 14 per cent. Woolworths also performed strongly with an 8 per cent sales lift in which toys, Christmas products and home essentials did well. Kingfisher chief executive Sir Geoff Mulcahy said Woolworths benefited from "an environment where customers were concentrating

on value for mone At Allders, like-for-like sales improved by 11.6 per cent in the 15 weeks to 11 January, one of the most impressive sales gains reported so far this year. The department store group also said the latest three weeks of its winter sale had gone well with sales up 16 per cent on last year.

The news was more mixed at Laura Ashley, the fashion and furniture retailer. It is shaking up the management at its European division after a steep decline in sales there. Though sales in Europe fell by 8 per

Andrew Stevenson, who was head of retail operations in the UK and Europe, is leaving by mutual agreement. The role will now be split in two. Laura Ashley blamed difficult markets but also said its product range had not been right. Like-for-like sales in the UK were 10 per cent higher but US sales were flat.

Body Shop reported the worst retail trading statement of the day with a 2 per cent slump in like-for-like sales in the 10 weeks to 4 January. Comparable sales were lower in the UK. Europe and the US. Chairman Gordon Roddick admitted the performance had been mixed but added that the US business

was improving.
Upbeat trading statements are expected later this week from

Strong pound will slice £60m off profits, warns Guinness

cumulative impact of our fo-

cused strategy and increasing

investment will deliver long-term growth. I am pleased that

our 1996 results will represent

steady growth in profit per-

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Guinness yesterday became the latest British company to fall victim to the strength of the pound, warning that the recent appreciation of sterling would hit its 1997 profits by £60m. Shares in the Johnnie Walker to Gordon's gin group slipped 5p to 431p, just 1p off their low for the past year.

News of the currency hit followed downgraded forecasts at several other significant exporters including ICI and British Steel. Shares in Rolls-Royce have also been weak as a result of fears that the rising pound would hit profits. Before yesterday's an-

nouncement, part of an otherwise cautiously confident trading statement, analysts had been looking for consensus profits this year of £1.02bn but few now expect the company to breach the £1bn mark. For the year to December 1996 expectations average about £959m, in a year when currency hedging is expected to have resulted in a small £15m pos-

The pound's advance began in August last year. From an in-dex low of 84.0 measured against a basket of major currencies, its trade-weighted index shot up to 96.1 by the year-end, a rise of more than l4 per cent Yesterday sterling was trad-

ing at 2.66 marks and \$1.67. The pound started the new year it fell out of the European Ex- sults that we are confident the change Rate Mechanism in

Despite currency concerns, Tony Greener, chairman of

Guinness, made positive noises about current trading: "I said at the time of our interim re-

itive impact.



Remaining positive: Tony Greener said the 1996 results group sale rose by 3 per cent in Blacks Leisure and JD Sports. | at \$1.712, its highest level since would represent steady growth in profit performance

The company said trading at United Distillers, the spirits subsidiary, continued to improve. Volumes increased by 1 per cent in 1996 compared with the previous year with single malts and de luxe Scotch whiskies the best performers. In line with the rest of the industry, Guinness has attempted to stimulate sluggish worldwide demand with increased marketing expenditure, which it said increased by 10 per cent last year, 15 per

cent in the second half. Price increases, the other bugbear of the spirits industry in recent years, remained modest with rises of only 3 per cent in the best markets leading to an overall increase of 1.5 per cent for the division as a whole.

Guinness Brewing, the traditional stout ale core of the group, saw better volume ris-es with Guinness Stout up by 5 per cent and Draught Guinness 8 per cent higher. Again the increase was acquired through heavy marketing spending, with 10 per cent more put behind advertising stout. The roll-out of Guinness Irish Pubs continued with 1,200 now operating under the marketing umbrella.

Cruzcampo, the Spanish subsidiary where lack of consumer confidence and political uncertainty has held back profits, continued to languish with a further 4 per cent fall in the beer market and a switch from high-margin on-premises sales

Hoper Foreingan, the Not

 The Electricity Pool, which manages the wholesale power market in England and Wales, yesterday agreed to appoint customer representatives to its executive committee following widespread attacks on the price-setting system. Neil Bryson, Pool chairman, said the two customer representatives would not be allowed to vote. but said the move "hopefully makes it a better representation for Pool member views". Yvonne Constance, national chairman of the electricity consumers' committees, said she would consider ap-pointing a representative, but added: "I can't believe they're handing over real power." The announcement was attacked by large energy users who are campaigning to have the Pool, which is dominated by National Power and PowerGen, referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A spokeswoman said: "Without votes we'd be able to change absolutely nothing so we don't see this as being particularly helpful. It's just a sop to customers to shut us up."

• East Midlands Electricity, the subject of an agreed £1.3bn takeover bid by US utility Dominon Resources, yesterday reported a drop in half-yearly profits of more than 17 per cent. In the six months to the end of September, pre-tax profits dropped to £80m (£96.7m). East Midlands said earnings the year before had been inflated by an £8m gain from the sale of peripheral businesses.

The fall also reflected the drop in profits from the main power distribution business following tougher price controls from Offer. the industry watchdog. Dominon's bid for East Midlands was declared unconditional last Friday.

• Mexico said that it was repaying three years ahead of schedule all the loans made to it by the US as part of an rescue package set up when it suffered an economic meltdown in 1995. The Mexican Finance Minister, Guillermo Ortiz, confirmed in Washington that all the outstanding \$3.5bn (£2.1bn) owed to the US would be repaid immediately. Some \$1.5tm still owing to the International Monetary Fund would also to be repaid, he said. President Bill Clinton, who suffered intense criticism over the original loan package, said the early repayment vindicated his actions. The full package amounted to nearly \$50bn, including up to \$20bn from the US, \$17.8bn from the IMF and \$10bn from other industrial countries.

 Edmond Warner has resigned as head of Global Research at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in order to take over the same post at NatWest Markets, as well as becoming global strategist. This is seen as a key signing in Nat West Markets' expansion according to Tom Whelan, global head of equites, to whom Mr Warner will report. Mr Warner joined Kleinwort four years ago and was voted the No 1 UK Strategist in 1995 by both Extel and Reuters.

 Bayer chairman Manfred Schneider said the company plans to cut 500 jobs in Germany this year. He had said at the end of 1996 that the company planned job cuts in 1997 but did not give a figure. Speaking at a public debate in Leverkusen, Mr Schneider reiterated his expectations that Bayer will see record profits for 1996. In 1995, Bayer had pre-tax profit of Dm4.185bn.

The Investment Column yesterday attributed Stephen King's latest novel Desperation to John le Carré. Mr Le Carré's latest novel is actually The Tailor of Panama.

Germany 'may not cut deficit in time for single currency'

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

A former Bundesbank chief warned yesterday that the German government would have difficulty cutting its budget deficit by enough to meet the target for the single European currency.

The warning from Karl-Otto Pohl coincided with new figures showing that government borrowing last year had overshot the 3 per cent of GDP ceiling by more than expected. Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, said: "The budget result makes it clear what a difficult situation the federal finances are in." He added that to meet the

limits set out in the Maastricht Treaty, the government would have to continue to find savings with greater determination". Mr Pohl, speaking at a conference in Paris, said he still ex- backed up by new figures

pected monetary union to be launched on time. But he said: "It could still be possible that the whole exercise will be post-poned or may even fail."



He said that without a significant pick-up in growth, Germany was unlikely to get its budget deficit below 3 per cent of GDP. This threatened the launch of the single currency because the German public would lose confidence if the

Opinion polls show that the majority of Germans are oposed to monetary union. Many believe the new Euro will not be as strong as the Deutschemark. Mr Pöhl, now a director of

Maastricht criteria were

private bank Sal Oppenheim, also criticised French efforts to make sure the European Central Bank would be under political control, saying its independence was essential. Figures published yesterday

showed that the German budget deficit amounted to have no idea how the govern-DM78.3bn last year, DM18.4bn ment will solve this very diffiabove target. Far lower-than-ex- cult problem," he said.

shortfall amounted to 3.9 per cent of GDP, well above the Maastricht target.

Most forecasts, including those published by organisa-tions such as the OECD and IMF, suggest that this year's deficit - the decisive figure for membership of the single currency - will be very close to 3 per cent. But some economists are much gloomier about prospects for the country's growth this year, and predict that the German government will struggle to meet the ambitious target it has insisted on more vociferously than anybody

Mr Pöhl said Germany was in a difficult situation, having told both its European partners and the public that the criteria must be interpreted strictly. "I

Delays raise election question for BA tie-up

Michael Harrison

British Airways is unlikely to get approval for its transatlantic illiance with American Airlines before the general election. posing fresh potential probems for the deal.

This emerged yesterday as London and Brussels remained at loggerheads over who had ultimate responsibility for sanctioning the tie-up, with the European Transport Com-missioner Neil Kinnock coming down firmly in support of his colleague Karel van Miert, Competition Commissioner. BA and American maintain

that the alliance could get off the ground by the spring. However, industry sources said that the investigation into the deal by the US Justice Department and the US Department of Transportation would take several months to complete.

sanctioning of the alliance and exempted from the alliance.

the completion of an open skies agreement across the Atlantic.

Labour is also dubious about whether approval of the deal should ultimately be the re-sponsibility of the European Commission rather than the British competition authorities. But it has also been guarded over whether the conditions imposed by the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, are

sufficient. US airline sources remain confident that American regulatory authorities will demand much more stringent curbs than those proposed by Mr

Lang. In particular, the Justice Department and Transportation Department could refuse BA and American take-off and landing slots at US airports with a shortage of capacity or This means that ultimate require that certain routes are

Stanley hit by 'Dettori effect'

Frankie Dettori's seven consecutive wins at Ascot last year cost Stanley Leisure £2m out of a total hit to the industry of £30m, the betting shops to casinos group said yesterday. Describing it as "the worst day ever in the UK bookmaking business", the chairman, Leonard Steinberg, said one of the group's Gus Carter shops paid out £235,000 on a single bet. The "Dettori effect", as Mr Steinberg called it, resulted in two payouts of more than £200,000, another over £100,000 and 27 payments of more than £10,000. Details of the industry's Black Saturday emerged as Stanley announced a 21 per cent

rise in pre-tax profits for the half year to October from £6.1m to £7.4m. Striking a confident note about proposed changes in proposals to deregulate the betting industry, Mr Steinberg signalled a 20 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 1.2p a share. Planned changes include

opening up 20 regions around

the country to casinos. Stanley

said it would be interested in

making applications for seven or eight of these and would hope to be licensed to open casinos in at least three new sites.

Turnover in the casinos arm increased by 7.7 per cent with profits up almost 12 per cent to £5.2m. Stanley's 533 betting shops, where profits rose from £2.8m to £4.0m, continued to slug it out with the National Lottery. Much of the improvement related to acquisitions and analysts said like-for-like sales growth of 3 per cent was

disappointing.

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The future is still a lottery for Stanley

nies such as Stanley Leisure requires some pretty heroic assumptions about future developments. Next month, for example Camelot introduces a mid- 22. It is right the shares should trade childrenswear market has not been easy week lottery while deregulation of casinos, putting more slot machines alongside the tables and licensing 20

to happen but the timing is unclear. enough.

Add in the prospect of a change of government, most likely to a party for which gaming reform is pretty low down its list of priorities, and the outlook is at hest uncertain. The longterm picture, however, remains attractive.

dustry has been prodded by the Na- retailer which turned in one of the seational Lottery into creating a better son's better Christmas trading upquality carnings stream. Thirty years dates ago the harsh winter of 1963 effective. ago the harsh winter of 1963 effectively shut down the country's betting shops because there was no racing.

Stripping out new store openings, like-for-like sales rose by 7.8 per cent, which was better than Boots and only Now bookies take bets on four televised football matches a week, the Irish lottery and a new rival to the Nation Lottery called 49s. It is a much better balanced business and even within the 72 per cent of turnover represented by racing, all-weather tracks have made meetings more reliable.

Even diversification, however, cannot be expected to protect against a 25.000 to one long-shot like Frankie Dettori's clean sweep at Ascot last year. Stanley's £2m hit on that day in effect wiped out profits at its new Gus Carter acquisition and pegged the pre-tax profits rise for the six months to October to 21 per cent.

Profits before tax moved ahead from £6.2m to £7.4m, pushing earnings per share from 3.76p to 4.51p. That meant Stanley was able to recommend a 20 per cent rise in the interim dividend. These were impressive figures but analysts still managed to find one or two niggling worries.

Analysts' biggest concern lay in evidence of margin pressure in both the bookies and casinos, where punters are said to be getting better at beating the house, by fair means and foul. Better training is expected to give staff a sharper eye and improve Stanley's return. There were also worries about a pretty anaemic 3 per cent rise in sales from the betting shop arm. The success of betting on the Irish lottery might have been expected to boost turnover by more than inflation.

Still, most brokers were talking about raising their forecasts yesterday and a full year outcome of about £23m now looks likely. That would put the shares, up 17.5p to 294p yesterday, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of

The gaming industry is in such a state of flux currently that valuing compa-

increase in like-for-like sales. Ironically it is now Darty, the French

makes the shares look attractive once

time, they trade on a forward rating of

16 falling to 14. This is a discount to

the sector that is due more to the dis-appointments of 1994 than funda-

mentals. It is worth pointing out that just a year ago analysts were forecast-ing Kingfisher 1996-97 profits of just

1996

318

3.33

Share price pence

_ half vear_

1995

164.2

3.76

1.00

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

1996

209.6

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Stanley Leisure : at a glance

Market value: £333.8m, share price 297.5p

293

10.6

3.08

2.63

at a premium to the market, to reflect the benefits of deregulation to come. but with so many question marks over new regions around the country, is set the company as well that rating is high

Darty drags Kingfisher down

Stanley's betting shops are a good example of the extent to which the in-

marginally behind Disons.

The group figure included double-

digit gams from both Woolworths and Comet. This was impressive as both were up against strong comparisons the previous year. The performance from Woolworths was even better given that the toy market appears to have lost sales to rival products such as sports

And if the recent figures from Moolworths' problems back then Adams were anything to go by, then the were due to errors that have been sort-

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnings per strare (pence)

Dividends per share (pence)

Profit by activity (£m)

Comet should benefit from the PC boom and B&Q should be selling paint and pliers like no tomorrow if the housing market forecasts prove true.

If Darty returns to form as well, then B&Q did well, buoyed by the grad-Sir Geoff Mulcahy will have pulled off ual recovery in the housing market. And Superdrug delivered a 5 per cent a remarkable recovery. The company has disappointed before, but the shares look good value.

Denby sets itself a place in US

electrical chain, which is dragging the group performance back. Its like-for-like sales rose by just 2.4 per cent.
Only a couple of years ago it was Darty which was Kingfisher's saviour when internal problems damaged the performance of Comet and Wool-worths resulting in the group's calamic. Out of every cloud comes a silver lining worths, resulting in the group's calami-tous 1994 profits warning.

Though Kingfisher's shares have risen by more than 60 per cent since then, yesterday's bout of profit taking and the one from Coloroll, the collapsed 1980s stock market star, is Denby, the pottery group. Bought out by management in 1990 and floated at 130p in June 1994, the group's shares have more than doubled, rising another more at 654.5p.
On upgraded analyst profit forecasts of £380m this year and £445m next 7p to 277.5p yesterday.

The reason for the latest strength was an upbeat annual general meeting statement announcing that sales romped ahead by 15 per cent in the first three months of the year to December. The buoyant current trading picture builds on an impressive record which has seen profits jump from £2.76m to £4,76m in the past three years.

Denby, founded in 1809, has been revitalised by a renewed concentration on design, aiming in particular at the "aspirational" market of young newly-weds and the like. Cleverly pitched just below Wedgwood and Royal Doulton's rather more formal products. Denby has probably rightly assumed that the days of bringing out the best china for special occasions are waning. But while it continues to add to what

it claims is a leading position in the UK, the one-off gains from its refocusing there seem to be largely over. The domestic market has been flat for several years and most of the growth is coming from overseas markets, where Denby seems to be replicating its success.

Although it has been across the Atlantic for most of this decade, sales in the US continue to rise at rates above 30 per cent. It seems that Americans have taken to this type of crockery in a big way and, since September, to Denby's matching glassware range which it reintroduced after a 10-year gap. The rip-roaring pound could rep-resent a problem if it is sustained.

Denby says only a fifth of its revenues are in foreign currencies and an average 7 per cent rise in prices means it is covered up to around \$1.64. But even assuming no sterling impact,

an unchanged profit forecast of £6.9m for the current year puts the shares on a chunky forward rating of 20. Hold.

Gulf bid for Clyde escapes MMC referral

City Editor

Gulf Canada's £432m bid for Civde Petroleum was given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry vesterday. which said it had no plans to refer the offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The decision increases the pressure on Civde to convince investors that the 105p-a-share offer represents a dramatic undervaluation of the oil producer's potential

With two weeks to go before day 39 of the bid, the last date on which Clyde can offer new information to shareholders, attention is expected to focus on the two sides' preferred valuation methods, with one broker saying a take-out price of up to 150p a share is a possibility. Yesterday's close of 119p suggests the market expects an improved offer from Gulf or a thirdparty approach.

The defence being put together by Malcolm Gourlay and Roy Franklin, chairman and chief executive respectively of Clyde, is expected to focus on Gulf Canada's use of net asset value as a base for calculating the premium its bid represents. Clyde will claim that, thanks to its steady, sustainable production, it is better valued on a multiple of its current cashflow, the preferred method in the US where there are more companies with Clyde's relatively low risk, predictable production profiles.

The net asset approach favoured by Gulf has been the traditional way of valuing UK oil explorers because in the early days of the opening up of the North Sea companies often had no production and cashflow to measure. Their assets could only be measured by attributing an asset value to future, expected production.

Clyde will claim over the next two weeks that such an ap-



Defensive: Malcolm Gourlay is expected to focus on the use of net asset value as a base for calculating the bid

proach gives no credit for the skill of its management in prolonging production by buying in and discovering new oil re-serves. In its first defence document recently, the company surprised analysts with a higher-than-expected estimate of reserves, put at 130 million barrels of commercially realisable reserves and 225 million of commercial and probable reserves. Those figures had shown a sharp rise despite record pro-

As well as arguing for a high-er multiple of cashflow, Clyde is expected to bring out a hastily compiled set of results for the year to 31 December.

STATES PLANE & ROAD

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Gulf, which last week reported acceptances of just 0.02 per cent of Clyde's shares and extended its bid until 24 January, has a week after Clyde's final defence to announce a final offer.

Any rival bid is not expected to emerge until after that

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	${}^{\pounds}1279^{.58}_{\scriptscriptstyle\text{ISC,VAT}}$	•
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No Littlewoods deal, says Lanica change, Lanica said it knew of took control late last year. Patrick Tooher the Selfridges-to-shoes group They have been on the slide for no reason for the substantial in-Mr Regan, son of Roger, the Shares in Lanica Trust, formera over a week since Littlewoods company doctor at kitchen and

ly New Guernsey Trust, are set to fall sharply this morning after the shell company vowed to remain an investment trust rather than become a vehicle for listing Littlewoods' retail businesses.

Speculation about a big deal between Lanica, run by 31 yearold dealmaker Andrew Regan. and privately owned Littlewoods, the Liverpool-based pools and department store group, sent the share price soaring from 137p to as high as £20.50p in the last three

But in an after-hours state-

crease in its share price in recent months. It added: "Lanica has man-

aged and will continue to manage its investment portfolio in accordance with the listing rules in respect of investment companies and in accordance with the investment policy set out in the offer document for the company.

Lanica cannot invest more than 20 per cent of its gross assets in any one investment, the statement continued.

closed 125p lower at 1550p, still way above the 203p per share ment issued to the Stock Ex- paid by Mr Regan when he

Last night shares in Lanica

it was discussing a small deal to supply Lanica with goods and in-

frastructure for a mail order business due to be launched for the armed forces.

Earlier this week Littlewoods paid £390m to buy the Freemans mail order business from Sears,

took then unusual step of denybathrooms group Spring Ram, ing rumours of an important paid £4.06m in cash for New link, worth up to £1bn, with Guernsey after mounting an unsolicited bid last October. The Littlewoods was said to be incompany was later renamed terested in reversing its mail or-Lanica Trust. der and high street businesses He made his name using a into Lanica to gain a stock mar-

vehicle called Hobsons to buy the Co-Op's food manufactur-Instead Littlewoods revealed ing arm. Hobsons was then sold to Hillsdown Holdings for £121m in 1995.

At Lanica, Mr Regan has already clinched a mail order deal with the NAAFI, the armed forces' trading company, to sell non-food items to almost 250,000 service personnel.

IN BRIEF

Bakyrctek Gold (1)

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 National Express said that fourth-quarter passenger traffic at East Midlands Airport fell by 1.9 per cent to 367,000. The total number of passengers using the airport for the whole of 1996 dropped by 3.2 per cent to 1,824,000. The company said: The decline in passenger numbers reflects the national picture of reduced volumes of charter and inclusive tour traffic. The decline in the fourth quarter was in fact smaller than had been previously expected and reflects continued strong growth on scheduled services."

 Arjo Wiggins Appleton said its subsidiary has been found not guilty of price fixing by a US court. A executive of Appleton Papers has also been cleared of price fixing charges. The court was considering indictments by a Boston federal grand jury on charges of price fixing in the thermal paper market from mid-1991 to early 1992.

• Tele-cine Cell warned that full-year profits would be "materially below" the £1.4m achieved in the previous 12 months, sending the company's share price down by 13.5p to 40p. Investors were also warned to expect a cut in dividends.

 Roxspur, the engineering company, said it expected to meet analysts' profit expectations in the first half despite losses on two discontinued businesses. The group believed that comparative sales from continuing operations for the six months to end-December will be at least 10 per cent ahead of last year and that comparative trading profit will be up by at least 20 per cent.

 Inn Business announced several board changes. Martin Bunting is retiring as non-executive chairman, to be succeeded by Alan Jackson, currently chief executive and who founded the business in 1991 after leaving Whitbread. Stephen Lambert, finance director, becomes managing director. Columb Harrington will succeed Mr

 Asquay has agreed to sell 2.2 million shares in UK Estates following the failure of its takeover bid earlier this week. The shares are being sold at 30p each, raising £696,000, to Close Brothers Corporate Finance. The shares represent a 5.92 per cent stake.

		•	F	
Company Results				
Turnove	T	Pre-tax	₽Ş	Dividend
\$799.000	(\$627.000)	-\$16.4m (-\$8,9m)	-50c (-35c)	
\$23.86m	(£22.71m)	£724,000 (-£3 4m)	27p (-22.1p)	0 5p (nit)
£9.91m (£9.12m)	£1.30m (£565.000)	6 35p (3p)	1 5p (1.155p)
- (-)		27.4m (26.1m)	4.51p (3.78p)	1.2p (1p)
£10,986	(-)	-2547,810 (-)	-24.5p (-)	

£1.68m (£1.52m) 10 94p (9 69p) 4.4p (4 02p)

Bass starts talks to buy Czech brewer

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Bass said yesterday it was forcing the pace of its ambitions in the Czech Republic, by opening discussions with one of the country's largest banks which has staunchly opposed the

brewer's expansion plans. Having increased its stake in the Radegast brewery last week from 20 to 33 per cent, Bass said it was confident of striking a deal before the end of the year with one of the brewer's other main shareholders. To do so it would have to strike a deal with IPB, the bank which owns 34 per cent of Radegast and has so far opposed the acquisition by Bass of a stake from another

Czech investor. Bass country manager Mervyn Childs said yesterday that because there were few shares left available on the open market, Bass was now focusing its attention on IPB. "I hope that our discussions will lead to something, certainly within the course of this year," Mr Childs said.

Bass already owns 51 per cent of Prazske Pivovary, which controls about 14 per cent of the local market compared with the 16 per cent share claimed by Radegast. It has ambitions to create a group with around 25 to 30 per cent of the Czech domestic beer Carlsberg Tetley.

market and is understood to favour an eventual merger between the two brewers.

Bass moved into the Czech beer market in 1993 when it took a 34 per cent stake in Prague Breweries. The British group now also owns majority shares in two small regional Czech breweries, Vratislavice and Ostravar.

Apart from moving into the Czech market, which boasts the world's highest per capita beer consumption, Bass has been keen to push Czech beers in western Europe and Russia. Bass and IPB have become the two largest shareholders in the Czech brewing industry, which is barely profitable but is considered to have big export potential. Prague Breweries. whose premium brand is Staro-

pramen, has seen exports surge to 290,000 hectolitres in 1996 from 109,000 hectolities in 1994. Whoever wins control of Radegast, the most profitable and efficient of the big brewing groups, will have dominant role in the industry and the largest

portfolio of brands. Bass is moving to expand its overseas operations to diversily away from the mature UK beer market, where it is currently embroiled in a Monopolies Commission investigation into its planned takeover of

anicals

Balding Materials

Data Bank

-9.3

+2.8

+0.22

FTSE 100 4158.9

FTSE 250

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SEAQ VOLUME

882.3m shares,

Gilts Index

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1600

1550

1500

1400

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1250

1200

53,260 bargains

Share spotlight

share price, pence

Schroders

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says Lania

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Rumours surround Zeneca as Footsie drifts along

Zeneca is back in the stock market limelight. As blue chips heroics, attention was direct-

It could have been because past two days suddenly evaporated and some of the more astute players found themselves with time on their hands. So they alighted on Zeneca,

which after some rip-roaring sessions has been surprisingly free from speculation in the Two related stories

past few months. emerged. The most widely rumoured was that Roche, the Swiss drugs giant for long seen as a likely predator, had blocked its corporate staff from taking holidays for the next two months. Such a development, ran the argument, could mean a long-suspected

Whether the holidays story was true or not the other leg took a breather after their of the yarn was much more relevant. JP Morgan, the US ined towards the drugs group, for vestment house, upgraded its long a favoured takeover tarprompting some US investors to buy into Zeneca. It was the heady excitement of the enough to lift the shares 37.5p at one time before a little

> Most blue chips were forced to play second fiddle as second and third liners took up the stock market running. As Footsie drifted, ending 9.3 points lower, supporting shares moved ahead with the

FTSE 250 index briefly reach-

ing, for the first time since April, a new trading peak. The leaders were unsettled by the flow of negative forecasts for shares in New York. Merrill Lynch's Robert Farrell is the latest prophet of gloom. predicting up to a 30 per cent



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

£236m. But analysts Rachel

Lucas fretted about the in-

creasing cost base as Schroders

expanded its operations: "The

risks to the business are build-

ing and the group is vulnera-

ble to any setback in the

extremely favourable condi-

tions which it has enjoyed over

Lehman Brothers lowered its Abbey National rating to un-

derperform, clipping the shares 4.5p to 796p and sent out a buy signal for HSBC, up 40.5p to 1,426p.

British Steel and BT were

actively traded, partly on bed and breakfast deals but also re-

the last two years."

The Ken and Eddie meeting £240m and from £190m to created uncertainty and the gyrations of the Dow Jones Average did not help sentiment. Even so, in early trading Footsie got to within hailing distance of 4,200, closing at 4.158.9.

Standard Chartered, the banking group, was the best-performing blue chip, up 33p at 744.5p, with SBC Warburg expressing confidence.

Schroders, the investment

group, overcame Nat West Securities caution, with the ordinary shares 25p higher at 1,625p and the non voters 27.5p to 1,472.5p.

NatWest lifted its profit

makers to borrow stock. Steel, following a positive analysts meeting, gained 4p to 150.75p and BT was 1.5p firmer at

416p, a 12-month high. Sterling's strength continued to take its toll with Rolls-Royce, Wolseley and GKN leading the retreat.

Christies International rose 5.5p to a 265p peak. The auctioneer recently produced strong sales figures; the hovering presence of Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas multi-millionaire with approaching 30 per cent of the capital is another influ-ence. English National Investment, controlled by Mr Lewis, put on 11.5p to 122.5p.

Prism Rail, meeting analysts next month, steamed ahead another 30p to 520p and GB Railways made further progress, up 25p at 267.5p.

Doelles, the chemical group, rose 5p to 291.5p following meetings with appliests White

which encouraged market Flowers, figures next month, rose 5p to 207.5p. Lanica, Andrew Regan's ve-

market report / shares

hicle, fell 125p to 1,550p. After the market closed it produced a long-awaited statement. It said it was "not aware of any reasons for the substantial increase" in its shares in recent months and as an investment company could not invest more than 20 per cent of its assets in any one situation. As its shares moved from 58p to 2.050p such a statement would have been useful. The price has retreated in the past

few weeks A few car dealers moved up a gear on hopes of an improved deal from Ford; and waters and the remaining electricity dis-tributors gathered support from Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Warburg said switch from National Power to PowerGen; at 500p and PG 4.5p brighter Taking Stock

Heavy turnover in Verity, up 1.75p to 28p. It is thought the Hong Kong group Wo Kee Hong, which once had more than 20 million shares, bas completed selling the stake. Verity has had an eventful time as the clamour over its wafer-thin sound system has increased.

Sibir, a Russian oil business closely related to Melrose Energy, up 1.5p to 26p, is due to arrive on AIM within a month. The company has a stake in a joint venture to develop an estimated 1.25 bil-lion-barrel oil field in Siberia. Shell is also deeply involved in the venture.

CiA, the media buying group, rose 16p to 152.5p. Its 19-year run of profit increases is over following a £1.8m advice which left NP 1p lower settlement with ITV companies. Around £5.8m against

Politicians still think they can fine-tune the economy. This is folly

Some time during the course of today when the Bank of England conducts its money market operations it should become clear whether or not Kenneth Clarke has agreed to an increase in interest rates this month. If he has decided against it, one of the reasons is likely to have been the need to want for the first estimate of gross domestic product in the final quarter of 1996, a figure due to be published at the end of the month. If it shows the economy

grew by as much as or more time. And what's more, the statistics are sometimes wrong. than in the third quarter, when GDP rose by 0.7 per cent. it could well trigger an increase in the cost of borrowing next month. For the economy's trend rate of growth is thought to be about 2.25-2.5 per cent a year, or about 0.6 per cent a quarter. Faster growth is likely to fuel inflationary pressure, requiring a rise in interest rates to take the froth off the economy. If the quarterly change in GDP is a fraction of a percentage point too high, we are likely to be paying more for our mortgages soon.

An essay in the latest issue of Economic Trends, one of the monthly publications of the Office for National Statistics, sheds an intriguing light on the use of economic statistics in policy decisions. The author, Henry Neuberger, explains how the national accounts were developed precisely for the purposes of policy-making. The first attempt to construct tary Fund 20 years national accounts with policy in ago. The IMF premind was made by economist scribed tough public JM Keynes in his paper "How to Pay for the War" in 1940, in which he tried to assess the

economy's taxable capacity.
As the following year's Budget White Paper noted: "During 1940 the resources devoted to personal consumption and to the strous balance of demands of central government and local authorities together exceed the resources available was later revised from the net national income."

Kevnesian economists during cians. Today's estithe subsequent decades came to mate of the 1975 regard the national statistics as deficit is £1.5bn, or

levels of its tax and spending plans. One standard text of the 1960s said: "We should approach the economic system as an engineer approaches a complicated piece of machinery, However, the habit of fine-tuning policy generated by this approach was subsequently discredited among academic economists. The economy is just not that mechanistic. There are unexpected shocks, people's behaviour changes over

One of the most notorious cases was the under-recording of exports in the 1960s and the balance of payments was a serious constraint on British growth. The government could not allow too much expansion without running into the trade buffers with imports running too far ahead of exports. The high hopes for the management of the economy crumbled into despair because of the stop-go

cycle that resulted. Even though the error was uncovered during the 1970s, the balance of payments remained the bugbear of the 1974-79 Labour government. A balance Healey back from Heathrow

Airport to meet the International Monespending cuts as a condition of the emergency loan, and the winter of discontent followed two years into the cuts. But the monpayments deficit that triggered the crisis

away by the statisti-



DianeCoyle

Setting policy is hampered not only by the need

to rely on forecasts having to steer using the rearview mirror but also by uncertain data

about 1.5 per cent of GDP. The scale of the deficit relative to the size of the economy was bigger during the early 1990s. The late 1980s provide another example. There are three

Expenditur

. - Income

ways of measuring GDP: add up jiggles the published number, Three measures of GDP

Treasury blamed over-loose policy on the unreliability of the GDP measures. It had been impossible to tell how close the economy was to its capacity ceiling, according to an internal inquest into the episode. The Treasury report in 1989 concluded that one problem had been reductions in spending on gathering statistics. Extra effort and resources put into collecting national accounts data since then mean that the size of revisions to GDP and balance of payments figures is dramatically less than before. As the chart shows, a gap be-

up expenditure. They ought to

in the late Eighties the gap be-

nificantly. When the scale of the

Lawson boom became clear, the

GDP has reopened in recent quarters, but it is nothing like as big as it was in the late 1980s. Even so, the fact that there are any revisions at all presents a difficulty in the current framework of policy, which involves making a judgement about the precise state of the economy month by month. The income measure of GDP fell in the third quarter of 1996, whereas the output measure jumped. The ONS focuses on the output measure as the most reliable short-term indicator but even so

to cut interest rates

last June, GDP

growth in the first

quarter of 1996 was

estimated to be 0.4

per cent. The latest

figures put it at 0.6

per cent. When he

increased base rates

published

tween the three measures of

which does not add up to the sum of its inflation target two years hence. components. And the revisions. small as they are, point to different interest rate decisions. For example, when Mr Clarke decided

Interest rates should go up this week. If they do not, they should go up next month in-stead. This is because most of the data over the past several months have pointed to growth well above trend. The GDP figure published between now in December, the and the next monetary meeting third- will not make any difference.

Liffe Financial Futures

output, add up incomes or add quarter change in GDP was 0.8 per cent - now revised down a little to 0.7 per cent.

be the same, but never are, and Martin Weale, director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and chairman of a statistics users group, is researching the question of whether or not it would be better for the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England to meet quarterly rather than monthly. But he would also like the ONS to put health warnings on different categories of statistics. "If you knew there was a margin of uncertainty, you would not respond so much to

the most recent data," he says. That, at least, might be how a rational academic would react to knowing that setting policy is not only hampered by the need to rely on forecasts - having to steer using the rear-view mirror - but also by uncertain data using the mirror to peer through a misted rear windscreen.

However, apart from the brief flirtation with pure monetarism in the early 1980s when the only thing that determined interest rates was how fast the (fairly accurately measurable) money supply was growing, policy makers have preferred to make policy as often as they can. With the current monetary arrangements, fine-tuning is back with a vengeance. Mr Clarke decides to move interest rates a quarter point because of a margin of 0.2-0.3 per cent in quarterly GDP growth to hit an

The folly is not that statistics get revised. That is inevitable, and the UK's statisticians are better than most. It is the fact that politicians still think they can handle the economy with the precision of a mechanic following a blueprint.

> of interest rates. The appointment of Richard

From Canary Wharf to Threadneedle Street

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Our heartiest congratulations to Peter Rodgers, our very own financial editor, who has just been appointed chief press spokesman for the Bank of England

To be precise, Mr Rodgers will become Secretary of the Bank of England, succeeding the present incumbent. John

As such. Mr Rodgers will become part of the Governor Eddie George's famed "raised eyebrows", the mechanism by which the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street indicates her displeasure to City institutions with a quiet word in the right ear.

The last journalist to be hired as press officer by the Bank was Bernard Rickatson-Hatt, the Bank's press officer from 1941 to 1958, who was recruited from Reuters where he was managing editor.

Under Mr Footman, an emollient pipe-smoker, the Secretary's office merged with the press office ~ so Mr Rodgers becomes the first fully-fledged Secretary to be hired from outside. Montagu Norman, the celebrated Governor of the Bank earlier this century, is said to have offered the job to TE Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, who refused, Kenneth Grahame, author of Wind in the Willows was also a Secretary.

Mr Rodgers, 53, read natural sciences at Cambridge before joining the Oxford Mail as a trainee journalist in 1966. Since then he has worked on the Sunday Times, Guardian and the Independent, which he joined seven years ago. He assures me he won't be required to wear a pink frock coat, and bafflingly declined to comment about the direction

Harvey as successor to Allan Bridgewater as group chief executive of Norwich Union confirms once again that Mr



Peter Rodgers is heading to the Bank of England

Harvey is an ambitious man. He recently told one of my colleagues that when he goes on holiday, he doesn't really see it as relaxation.

He and his family like to set themselves goals or targets at the beginning of each day. Norwich employees can anticipate a fun time

The Budgerigar Society is launching its own Visa card. We've had credit cards issued by everyone from the Law Society to football clubs, even by London Irish Rugby Club.

Now budgie lovers can demonstrate their love for budgerigars to the outside world - as well as the chance to take advantage of a credit card that compares very favourably with those available from the high street banks". So says the card's issuer, American-owned

Beneficial Bank. This reminds me of a tale told by Mike Abrahams, compliance officer at Barclays Bank's financial services arm, and previously head of compliance at the PIA.

As a child. Mike had a pet budgie which liked to perch on top of a door. One day an insurance salesman called, slammed the door shut - and squashed the beloved budgie stone dead.

Mike was only told the truth

Friends have speculated whether this early, traumatic contact with an insurance salesman has caused in part his vocation for regulating them, as a form of revenge. He's certainly missed a trick lening Beneficial Bank get the coveted budgie card account.

stew and fo

Ian Byatt, water regulator, manages to charm the pants off MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee (not literally, I hasten to add). As he's being grilled about the water industry one MP remarks that Mr Byatt is drinking bottled mineral water. To which Mr Byatt gleefully

points out that he'd recently insisted on tap water before the Environment Select Committee. "I drink tap water all the time myself," he says, to which one MP mutters: "That explains everything."

BAT Industries and Imperial Tobacco might like to take a leaf out of Philip Morris's book. The biggest cigarette maker in the world is seeking to get around new restrictions on tobacco advertising by launching its own record

Philip Morris has quietly been preparing a big launch of its label. Woman Thing Music, named after the ad slogan for its Virginia Slims cigarettes: "It's a woman

thing."
The company plans to the with los flood the market with loads of CDs by largely unknown female artists. The CDs will not be on sale at record stores, however.

They will be given away free with two packs of Virginia Slims in special packages, which will be available in supermarkets and other outlets.

UK companies could do the same with a band like the Spice Girls. The Nicotine Girls has a certain ring to it.

John Willcock

ISSIFICATIONS

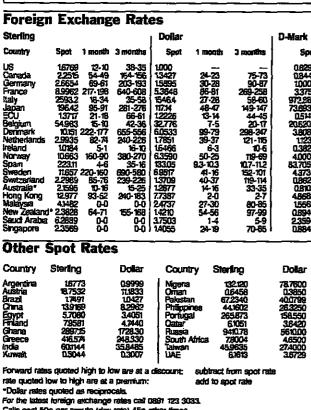
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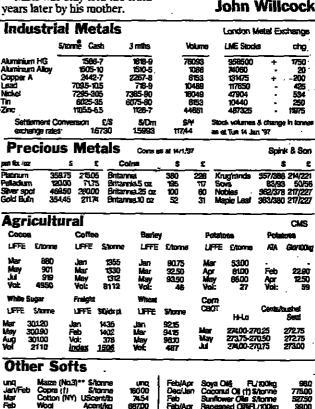
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Interest Rates **Bond Yields** 3.8083 1.7231 0.3821 4.0006 83.7056 4.3735 0.8625 0.8102 4.8686 1.5663 0.8940 2.3594 0.8842 **Money Market Rates Tourist Rates** 20800 182500 53,4500 2,2075 0,7750 9,8200 2,9175 7,8900

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sport

Wharf to Street

INESS

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lan Byatt water regulator, manages to charm the pank off MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee (not literally, I hasten to add As he's being grilled about water industry one Mp remarks that Mr Byati is

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ued

; truth

23.

1972 1999

Philip Morris has quich been preparing a big laund of its label. Woman Thing Music, named after the adslogan for its Virginia Yun. cigarettes: lisa woman thing

The company plans to Good the market with look Of CDs ry for all unknown temple artists. They Doub not be on see al teem. startes, however

They will be given and true with the packets. Virginia Simon spend nackages, a neb villac available in substitution at rather coalless

UK on the localitation the store with a hard like the ca Space Gibs, Inc. Norme. Girls has recommong on

John Willcook

3-1 and Revoque three points longer for the 2,000 Guineas. . . **** ****** Horse Rating (kg) Revoque Bahhare Bahamian Bounty 123 (55,5kg) 121 (55.0) 119 (54.0) 119 (54.0) 118 (53.5) ATTENDED TO 117 (53.0) In Comm ---Indian Rocket Muchea 117-(53.0) 117 (53.0) 116 (52.5) 116 (52.5) Air Express 116 (52.5) 205 E-1-11

2.

الاستان بردر المنظور المناسبة المنظورة ا

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المحالين من المنظمة ال المنظمة المنظمة

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Pas De Réponse William J. . THREE-YEAR-OLDS 134 (60.5) Mark Of Esteem 131 (59.5) 130 (59.0) Skip Away 127 (57.5) 126 (57.0) Even Top Louis Quatorza Unbridled's Song 126 (57.0) 126 (57.0) Yanks Musi Ashkalani 126 (57.0) 125 (56.5) Zagreb FOUR-YEAR-OLDS AND UP 135 (61.0) 3

Musical Pursuit

129 (58.5) 129 (58.5) Soul Of The Matter 127 (57.5)

116 (52.5)

RESULTS

WOLVERHAMPTON

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.40: 1. PROLO PRIMA (S Sanders) 7-4
tar, 2. Evening in Paris, 5-2; 3. Gold Lance
7-1. 8 mm. 2½, 1½, (Sr Mark Prescott, Newmarket), Totac £2.60; £1.10, £1.10, £3.00.
DF: £6.10. CSF: £7.26.
2.10: 1. GALAPINO (M Rimmer) 11-4; 2.
Eurobank The Lad 20-1; 3. Zealed 10-1 10-1
ran, 5-4 for Greenspen (40th) 5, 6. (G Branery, Newmarket), Totac £4.70; £1.40, £3.50.
£2.20, OF: £48.20. CSF: £49.54. Trac:
158.00.

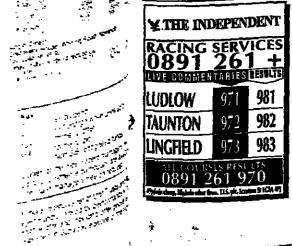
2.40: 1 OPERA SUFF (A Whetan) 6-1; 2. Star Rage 12-1; 3. Inflamous 14-1, 10 ran. 6-4 fav Celestial Chor (6th). 1, 10. (Miss G Kelleway, Whitnombe). Total: £6.90; £2.40, £3.30, £5.10. DF: £46.70. CSF: £72.21. Th

Cast: £908.44. The £30.10. 3.10: 1. GOLDEN HADEER (A Clark) 4-7

3.10: 1. GOLDEN HADEER (A Card 4-7 tar; 2. Nouted 7-1; 3. Anglescy See Yiew 14-1, 8 can, 8, 3%, 64 Ryar, Newmarket). Total £1.90: £1.30, £1.20, £1.80. DF: £7.90. CSF: £6.49. Tricast: £32.76. Trice £1.54.0. NR: Humbing Ground.

3.40: 1. FIGLIA U Quinn) 5-2 g.4av; 2. km-partie Garden; 3-1; 3. sty Girl 16-1. 8 ran. 5-2 g.4av; Come Too Maxima* 3. 1%, 3. U L. Harris, Melton Moubray). Total: £4.60: £1.80. £1.30, £5.30. DF: £6.00. CSF: £11.39. 4.10: 1. FOOT BATTALION (F Lynch) 4-1; 2. Ultra Boy 10-1; 3. Enchanting Eve 6-1. 7 mm. 11-4 fav Nomore Mr Nondy (4m). 74. 5. (R Hoffmshed, Upper Longton). Tota: E5.30; £1.90, £3.20, DF; £20.50. CSF;

£38.95. Placepot: £209.70. Quadeot: £24.20. Place 6: £306.15. Place 5: £207.97. The meetings at Huntingdon and Windsor were abandoned because of frost.



Stewart and Hussain * find form with centuries

Cricket MARK BALDWIN

reports from Palmerston North NZ Select XI 138 and 25-1 England 427-8 dec

Nasser Hussain yesterday admitted England's batsmen did not apply themselves in Zimbabwe as well as they should have done.

The England vice-captain promised New Zealand would see a completely different team from that which ended the opening leg of this winter's tour in such disarray. "New Zealand players like Chris Cairns will have looked at the results of the last couple of one-day games and wondered what was happening as they have been over in England and seen us play.

They know we are decent cricketers and that those last couple of games were a bit of a blip. I think we should have applied ourselves a bit more in Harare

only in the first innings of the Harare Test do I think we let ourselves down as a batting unit."

Hussain returned to form here with 139 as England piled up 427 for 8 declared for a firstinnings lead of 289. With Alec Stewart making 153 and John Crawley an effortless 35, it also put into sharp relief the batting struggles of Mike Atherion.

"It should be blatantly clear the team are 100 per cent behind Mike Atherton at present," Hussain added, "He's a class player and a top captain, and nobody has said anything against him. I know as a batsman peo-ple around you may try to lift you, but you must do it yourself and Mike has steel. We would not be at all surprised if he went to Auckland for the first Test in a week or so and made a ton."

Atherton, who made seven when England's innings began on Monday and who has passed 50 just once this winter, is unlikey to get another chance to

ham Thorpe will be desperate for a big score in Hamilton where England play Northern Districts.

Thorpe lobbed up a simple catch to midwicket, splicing a pull, after making just six from 16 balls. Hussain and Stewart added 205 before the Surrey captain retired hurt with a phantom hamstring injury during the mid-afternoon drinks break.

Stewart had been the initial aggressor after resuming on 75 with England 154 for 3. In all, he struck two sixes and 20 fours in an innings which confirmed his fine form after a successful time in Zimbahwe.

Hussain accelerated in classic fashion during the course of his innings. His first 50 took 135 halls, but in all he faced 236 deliveries - his last 39 runs occupied only 26 balls - with three successive fours preceding his dismissal to a skied thrush at the off-spinner Paul Wiseman.

bat here, and both he and Gra- the Select XI with only 55 minutes batting at the end of the third day, but Dominic Cork struck an important blow by having the prospective Test opener, Craig Spearman, caught in the gully as he sliced a drive at an away-swinger, Third day of lour, England won joss

NZ 551.ECT XI - First landings 138 (C White 4-15). 8-37. Did not bat: P.C.R Tulnell. Bowling: Momson 28.5-6-81-4; Kennedy 21-3-80-2, Vaughan 22-4-84-0; Wiseman 17-2-83-2; Haslam 25-7-90-0.

Extras 0.0 Total (for 1, 14 overs) 25 Fall; 1-6.
To bat: L G Howell, M A Home, "M J Groat-batel, J T C Vaughan, P J Wiseman, M J Hislam, R J Hismedt, D R Momson, Bowling: Cov. 6-1-17-1; Cadded: 5-3-3-0. Strenwood 2-1-4-0; Tufred: 1-0-1-0. England's declaration left une



Alec Stewart pulls to leg on way to a century in Palmerston North vesterday

Photograph: Empics

Briton to design Sydney course

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Mike Etherington-Smith was in chosen to design the crosscountry courses for the Olympic three-day events in Sydney. He was, needless to say, inspecting the venue for the competitions in which he will be chief examiner.

Hugh Thomas, the only other Briton to have filled this role. made about 18 trips to Scoul where he designed the excellent cross-country fences for the 1988 Games. He found the experience both daunting and

exciting.
"The Olympics are normally held on new sites and you only have one chance to get it right, Thomas said. "So it will be quite a challenge for Mike, but I'm sure he'll do a very good job." Etherington-Snuth, a former

competitor, has vast experience of designing courses on both sides of the Atlantic and in Australia, where he took over at the Fairbridge event in 1995, At

home, he has been responsible for the courses at Blenheim Palace since the first three-day event was held there in 1990.

"Blenheim was a virgin site. Australia yesterday when it was as it were. I had to decide announced that he has been where every single thing would go, he said. The experience should stand him in good stead as he surveys the hilly virgin site for the 2000 Olympics.

As in Atlanta, where separate team and individual contests were held for the first time, two different courses will be required. That increases the workload, but unlike Thomas in South Korea, he will at least be working with people who know something about the sport. As an additional advantage, the course builders will include two Englishmen - Alan Willis and

his son, James, Alan Willis began building fences at Badminton (where Thomas is now director and course designer) back in 1966 and he is now a well-respected -master of his craft. Etherington-Smith will gladly rely on his support and expertise as he faces his greatest challenge to date.

2.40 LONGMYND NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m

Revoque is top of juvenile class

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Revoque won his first confrontation of 1997 with Bahhare yesterday. Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt was placed at the summit of the international Classifications and rated 2lb su-

perior to the unbeaten Bahhare. While Chapple-Hyam celebrated this victory in the twoyear-old section while on holiday, the John Dunlop camp of the runner-up appeared to take defeat very well. "We wouldn't have any arguments with the assessment because on a line through In Command it does appear he is slightly inferior," Marcus Hosgood, the trainer's secretary, said. Con-solation is available in another

set of figures, the Tote's ante-

post list, which has Bahhare at

Bahhare, who is owned by Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, was afforded some winter sun in Duhai but is now back boarding at Arundel, "At the moment we're just barely cantering them, but Bahhare is in good form," Hosgood added.

In Command himself won the Dewhurst Stakes to earn a rating of 117, the lowest mark for a winner of that race since Dr Devious in 1991. Barry Hills, In Command's trainer, can cheer himself with the fact that the good doctor went on to win the Derby.

British juveniles became as welcome in France as the nation's meat products last year when 11 of the 19 two-year-old pattern races were surrendered to the visitors from across La Manche, Pas De Reponse, who captured the Cheveley Park Stakes, was the only horse to make a successful journey in the other direction.

LINGFIELD

2.00 Milos

2.30 Supreme Star

HYPERION

GOING: Standard. STALLS: I mile – outside; remainder inside.
DRAW ADVANZAGE: Middle usually an advantage in 6f races.

Lell-hand, shorp course (Equitract surface).

Course is south-east of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure SP. CAR PARK: (7th S2; remainder free.

1.30 LITTLE ACORNS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,224

2.00 PENNY WISE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m Penalty Value £2,986

2.30 CAVEAT EMPTOR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m Penalty Value £2,518

The classifications suggest Peslier's Olga Korbut performance at Longchamp. "It is diftwo-year-old racing is becoming increasingly uncompetitive (there are fewer horses reaching the qualification level) and this malaise is heightened by the small numbers representing France. Racing there is suffering from the top horses being

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Plum First (Lingfield 4.00) NB: Lobster Cottage (Ludlow 2.40)

concentrated among an elite group of owners and trainers. France does, however, provide the top-rated three-yearold in Helissio, who, with the exception of Suave Dancer, is considered to be the best Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner of the last 10 years. The committee is still undecided about his true merit following Olivier

3.30 Passage Creeper

4.00 Plum First (nb)

ficult to judge, had his jockey not indulged in some remarkable pre-race finish celebrations, by just how far he may have won," Geoffrey Gibbs, the classifications chairman, said.

Shaamit, on 124, is the lowest rated Derby winner since Quest For Fame in 1990. Some unkind soul has begun referring to the Classic as a high-class maiden race following the victories for seasonal debutants in the last two years and it does appear that the greatest event of them all is becoming seen as much as a starting point as a peak of a thoroughbred's career.

The older-horse category and the title of the best horse in the world goes to the now-retired Cigar (the other celebrated animal of the Breeders' Cup series, Rick's Natural Star, is a cruel omission).

With the improved accessi-

bility of world events and the decline in stallion fees the number of older horses kept in training is increasing, but nev-ertheless the removal of Cigar will leave a void. The big horse has joined the

American legends such as Forego and Kelso as an animal who topped his category in consecutive years. "Accepting the ability, courage and durability he has consistently demonstrated it is not unreasonable, in that he is markedly superior in character and quality, to define him as a great," Gibbs said.

Ciribbs Said.

2,000 Gilbheas Newmarket. 3 May/ Tote:
3-1 Banhare, 6-1 Revoque, 10-1 Indiscreet,
16-1 Medoaly, Putra, 20-1 Entrepreneur, In
Command, Majonen, Mantovan, Musical
Pursur, Poteen, Zammarar, 25-1 others.
1,000 GIBBEAS (Newmarket, 4 May/ Tote:
3-1 Sleepylame, 6-1 Moonlagh Paradise, 7-1
Rearns Of Verse, 10-1 Dazzle, Pas De Reponse,
12-1 Reet River, Ryefan, 14-1 Yashmak, 16-1
Whassah, Sarayir, 20-1 others.
DERBY (Epsom, 7 June) Tote: 14-1 Entrepreneur, Happy Valentine, 20-1 Bathare,
Medasily, Yorkshire, 25-1 High Roller, Indiscreen, Mernomse, Shaya, 33-1 others.

8-1 Stoney Valley, 10-1 Khatir, 14-1 to The Money, 20-1 others. 1996: Sr Norman Hon 7 10 0 D Bigs 20-1 (R J O'Sullivan) 14 ran FORM GLIDE

FORM GUIDE

WOTTASHAMBLES can commune his good run by landing the har-trick. He looked good bearing Guest Affaince five lengths over course and distance last time and should not be troubled to come out on top again on 7th worse terms. Guest Affaince went on to be third to Hattasfeh on Saturday, beaten two lengths but enjoying a 4th pull now. Hattasfeh was having her first run since July, when he had been fourth of 20 to Bolivar at Ascot off a 2th higher mark than today's, so can improve. Supreme Star will appreciate the exist three furlongs after winning over a mile and live nine days ago and has every chance under the penalty. Stoney Valley has not been running badly over hurdles and goes off a low mark, as does Khattir, who is tried in blinkers on this first Flat run for Martin Pipe. Sassehver may be dattered by his provintily to Yet Again Last week but still ran well. Selections WOTTASHAMBLES

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS; G L Moore - 48 winners from 104 runners gives a Saccess ratio of 11.9% and a loss to a \$1 level state of \$17.61; A Moore - 47 winners, 467 runners, 10.3%, -\$61.75; R O'Saffiran - 41 winners, 310 runners, 15.2%, -\$68.24; S Dow - 30 winners, 326 runners, 9.2%, -\$39.17.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dectori - 83 wins, 336 rides, 24.7%, +\$12.28; J Weaver - 78 wins, 371 rides, 21.0%, +\$30.7 R Cochrane - 64 wins, 363 rides, 17.0%, +\$29.20; T Quinn - 48 wins, 305 rides, 15.7%, -\$42.7%.

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: Mediand (2.00); Khazir (2.30). 3.00 APPLE A DAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f Penalty Value £2,791 BLINERRED FIRST TIME: Mediand (2.00); Khatir (2.30), won here on Thursday; Hattaafeh (2.30) won here on Saurday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNDRESS: Colosse (1.30) & Plum First (4.00) have been sent 258 miles by J L Eyre from Sauton Bank, North Yorkshire; The Institute Boy (3.00) sent 230 miles by Miss J Craze Irom Elvington, North Yorkshire.

— 10 declared —
SETTINE: 7-2 invocation, Sharp imp, 9-2 Aljaz, 11-2 Melius, 13-2 Rock To The Top, 7-1 The Institute Boy, 12-1 Halbert, 18-1 Tackportals, Specials, 20-1 Bright Paragon.

1996: Random 5 8 12 C Rutter 14-1 (C Jomes) 13 run

FORM GUIDE

Sharp lasp and invocation, won their respective divisors of the course and distance hand-icap on A January, the latter recording the slightly faster brie, in addition, invocation was eased close home with the race won, so he will be hard to bear off a 5th higher mark. Third in his race, bearen a length and three-quarters, was ALIAZ, rumming on at the end and 5th botter now. He has since finished second of 12 to Sotoman at Wolverhampton and, in the sort of race where few can be ignored, is worth the chance today. Sharp limp is in good form and has the clear beating of Superhae, Tachycardia and Heilbert from that latest win. Melitors is on a good all-weather mark and his close fifth to Step On Degis over sev-en futiongs last time, when he made the running to about this distance, is encouraging. The Institute Boy did not run badly after a break since August when fifth to subsequent y-disquartied Mijas over five furlongs on Toesday.

Selections ALIAZ

3.30 DOCKLANDS CARS & COURIERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,404

13 00-0 BROUGHTONS RELISH (13) (Broughon Boodsnoth) William 4 7 10 ...Declar O'Shee 4 — 13 declared —
Minimum weight? 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Broughtons Relish 7st 5th.
BETTINE: 4-1 Carrolls Mart, 9-2 Colosse, 5-1 Ooders, 7-1 Wespita, 15-2 At Helal, 8-1 Zectmon, 10-1 Selectiogh, 12-1 Septime Son, 14-1 Efficacions, Labudd, 16-1 others.
1996: Carrolls Mart 8 9 1 I Weerer 12-1 ft Martay 15 ran
FORM GLIDE
CARROLLS MARC won this from 1.4 rheals last yeer and went on to show improved form by
canding a timmed stakes later in the same month. The nine-year-old will have been sharpened up by a run here last month, when he showed a lattle promise in finishing eighth to
Zuno Fiyer in an amsteurs' handicap, Jason Weaver rote Carrolls Marc to both his wins last
year and is back in the studie lodgy. Colosses also won twice here early last yeer, Her head
second to Reselyel at Wolverhampon last month was a cracking effort considering Golden
Hadeer, who has won three times since, was five longths behind in third, but she disappointed behind Carrolly Falson there afterwards and is not one to trust. She is poorly in with
my selection compared to sturning here last winter. At Helial was collared only inside the fivnel furlong when third to Supreme Star here (LimS) nine days ago (Efficacious severith).
That was a return to some sort of form for the ex-Dick Hern-trained geiding and he is, another for the short-list. Ooderm ran on the last two furlongs to be fourth to Anstitura in a
10-furlong seller, finishing a neck in front of Warspike (11b hetter off), with Eastleigh (2th
better off) a further length and three-quarters back in severith. The extra two furlongs will
Selection: CARROLLS MARC

vanuage or experience of the strates, the terrain is the factor and whose control focts of the surface that make langed a handicap here efferivants, but she shi has plenty to prove in receipt of just 7 to from Dances With Hooves. Regal Splendour is the other to consider, having bace Invision numer-up — to Alpine Hideway at Lecester and Almarah Sunset on but here — when with Paul Cole. National and Docklands Courier can prove best of the other numbers.

Selection: DANCES WITH HOOVES

4.00 FRIEND IN NEED HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 7f Penalty Value £2,830

- 11 declared -

All remains a second of the pear (32) (Ms) Developed the month of the round. Walkild Beach found Bon Secret much too good over this trip last month but reverser the form in no uncertain terms over an expa two furlongs last pane. He is one for the short-list even though a short-head beating of Mediate is not good enough in itself. Millions with a seven-furlong seller last week but has more to do against this opposition. That was at least a return to form for Joe Naughton's runner and Jason Webner egain takes the inde. The others are against it at the weights, with bilinkered-first-time Mediand and Our Shadee likely to do best of them.

LUDLOW

1.10 Fitzwilliam 1.40 Fastini Gold 2.10 God Sper You 2.40 Dante's View 3.10 First Crack 3.40 Jo ly Boat 4.10 Shebang

ENSPECTION: 7.30am

BASICS, 11000: 10000000

GOING: Good to Firm (Piner) places).

Right-hand course. Classe rourse has sleap bends.

Course is NW of norm off A 19. LoBox station (Hereford - Shrebury line). 2m. ADMISSION: Club 2 I i increampanied underfree). Tattereally 5.9. Course 55. CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Premier Star (1.40), Bold Acre (2.4 WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE BLINKERS: Prevelegis Builds (2.10) & White I amoud (4.10) sext (18mt by Mass L V Bassell from Multathort, Taysa

1.10 MARSHBROOK MAIDEN HURDLE (CLAS

NEENTON SELLING HANDICAP HURD 1.40 NEENTON SCLLING 12.00 2m (CLASS 6) £2,400 added 2m | 3350F DENOMINATION (USA) (44) (D) M Pipe 5 11 10 ... C Navel
| 335140 LITTLE HOOLIGAM (37) R Hodges 6 11 4 ... T Descombe 6
| 3 F135-96 ASTRAL PRIASON (54) (D) G McCourt 6 11 4R Hoisson (7)
| 4 O-04 TEE TEE TOO (38) ACTRO 5 10 13 ... M Minston
| 5 P5106-6 LAJADHAL (75) (27) (D) K Betro 8 10 8 ... L Harve
| 6 5343 FRISTRI GOLD (29) M User 5 10 7 ... MA A FIDgered
| 7 F543-06 THEM TUBES (38) F LOTAS 8 10 0 ... L Aspell (5
| 8 400-52 COSMIC STAR (55) P Wedsorth 7 10 0 ... X Alexanta (7)
| 9 DOLO PRESAMES TORE (747) N Wingrow 7 10 0 ... L Proceed
| 10 450643 SCALP 'EM (57) Dr P Pructord 9 10 0 ... Dr P Pitched
| 11 006040 ASANIST THE CLIDIK (57) P Bowen 5 10 0 ... R Johnson
| 11 description | 12 description | 13 description | 13 description | 14 description | 15 description | 15

Meanum weight 10st fine weight Them Times 99 1.3th, Cosme Star 9st 11st Premier Star 9st 7h, Scalp Em Set 6b, Against The Clock 9st 3b. BETTING: 3.1 Denografication, 4.1 Astrol laveston, 5.1 Fastini Gold, 6-Tee Toe You, 7-1 Them Times, 8-1 Cosmic Star, 10-1 others

2.10 TENBURY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS | £5,000 added 3m

Minimum: 10st. True weights: Forumes Course 9s; 13th, Pont Llin 8s; 13th. BETTHIS; 7-2 Imperial Visitage, 4-1 God Speed You, Well Briefed, 5-1 Cool-roe, Fiveleigh Builds, 7-1 Fortunes Course, 8-1 Andrelot, 12-1 others

		(GLASS E) £4,100 added 2m	
1		SCOTTISH BANKS (27) (C) (BF) P Nation 9 12 7	
		Alboraton	
2	F033-1:	HOLY WANDERER (USA) (24) T Corps 3 11 5 . G Hogan (3) DANTES VEW (USA) (29) Pheaper 3 11 6 D O'Sulfivan	
3	43.1	DANTES WEW (NSA) (29) 2 has at 2 1 / 1 D (VSuffman)	
4	PFU1-F3	LOBSTER COTTAGE (43) (0) + 30(5) 9 10 11 S Michell UK HYGENE (43) M Hormond 7 10 3 R Garmity	
5	10.700	UK HYGIENE (41) M Hammand 7 7/3 R Garette	
6	25 0.51	BOLD ACRE (27)) 30ctor, 7 (0 c	
7	60/236	DARA'S COURSE (231) Max 2 Whate 6 16 0 TJ Marphy	
8	2416 11	NOTIFIER SINGER (27) (BP) R Hacks 7 130	
-		T Descombe (3)	
9	0154.5	ICE MAGIC (72) Filarday, 10 10 C R. Ferdina V. I	
10	0400	NUNSON (26) R Dictar S 10 0 B Powell	
		- 10 declared -	
di	क्षेत्रका अस्त्री	rc. 10st. True handcap weege 5cts Apr. 9st 13st, Dyna's Crurse	
99	11th Nort	hem Singer 9st &e. Ice Magic 9st 6th Murson &st 11th,	
Œ	TUNG: 5-2	Holy Wanderer, 3-1 Scottleh Bambi, 6-1 Dante's View, North-	
Ξi	n Sangé₂, 7	-1 Bold Acro, Lobster Cottage, 12-1 others	
13	2 1A	WELSHPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS	
Į٠	أمحد	F) £3,000 added 3m 2f 110yds	
-			
2	13216	MESTER BLAKE (28) (D) R Let 7 11 10	
3	20 Ebon	BRINDLEY HOUSE (76) 3 Cares 10 11 8 Bridge	
	20-0432	BROWNER MOUSE (16) T COUS IV II 8 WHEN	
\$	03-1000	DETRUME SPRINGE (173) (C) Mrs S Latrison 7 11 4	
5	E AEI e IC	- A Thomas	
7	3439,1	WESTERLY GALE (50) (BF) N Harderson 7 11 4	
	OF ACA	EVEZIO RIFFO (28) N Lutimoder 5 11 5 IR Kavensels V EVEZIO RIFFO (28) N Lutimoder 5 11 5 IR Kavensels V PREST CRACK (43) (C) F Juriar 12 11 2 S Wymne THERE CLAW (25) (D) A Houss 11 10 13 Mr G Shenlus (7)	
7	221204	EAST OFFICE TO USE PARTY 1717	
á	ES SDAC	LACED OF SHIP LOSS OF PROPERTY TO THE COMMUNICATION AND MARKET AND ADDRESS OF THE COMMUNICATION AND	
ĝ	3.7.40	DESCRIPTION OF A LOCAL TO TO TO THE SECOND (1)	
10	UD4 200	RARE SPREAD (30) M Proc 7 10 10 C Mande GUNMAKER (24) 8 Lievelyn 8 10 4 N Williamson	
	6 60360	AWESTRUCK (38) B Prece 7 10 0 Thinks B	
	0.74670		
		CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR OF STREET CO. S. Marcon CO. 2	
		CRAVATE (FR) (38) P Hoths 7 10 0	
12	6 P00P4P	- 12 declared -	
12 Mar	GPOOP-P Sembon west	- 12 declared - Nr. 10st, True weaths: Americans 9st 3th, Cravare 9st 1th,	
12 Mar 18	GPOOPE WINSON WEIG TIBAGE 3-1	- 12 declared -	
12 Mar BEI Blar	6:P00;P.P verson weeg TTB4G: 3-1 ke, 8-1 Tig	- 12 declared - 11: 10st. The weights Ametinch Set Jib. Crarier Set Jib. Evenio Rufo, 5-1 Queen's Amerid, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others	
12 Mar BEI Blas	6:P00;P.P verson weeg TTB4G: 3-1 ke, 8-1 Tig	- 12 declared - 11: 10st. The weights Ametinch Set Jib. Crarier Set Jib. Evenio Rufo, 5-1 Queen's Amerid, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others	
12 Mar BEI Blar	6:P00;P.P verson weeg TTB4G: 3-1 ke, 8-1 Tig	- 12 declared - 11: 10st. The weights Ametinch Set Jib. Crarier Set Jib. Evenio Rufo, 5-1 Queen's Amerid, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others	
MS BES	6P00PP wnum weg ITBN2-3-1 ke, B-1 Tu	- 12 declared - 12 flectared - 12 flectared - 12 flectared - 14 flectared - 15 fl	
12 Mar BEB 1	6,700,00 meg 17862: 3-1 ske, 8-1 Te 3.40	- 12 declared - THE LOSE True megylist American Set 3th. Crimone Set 1th. Evenilo Ratio, 5-1 Queen's America, Rane Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOUAN (250) Mas P thrus 8 11.5	
12 May BE Blad 12	6F006F 1880: 3-1 186: 8-1 Te 3.40 QCFFF- 0130F3	- 12 declared - THE LOST THE MESTING SET SITE CONTROL SET LIB. BRODO RATIO, 5-1 Queen's Assard, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Clare, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f ARDUAN (250) Mas P Whate 6 11 5	
12 Me Bia 123	6FROPP MILIT WEE ITHES: 3-1 Ace, 8-1 To 0CFFF- 013/0F3	- 12 declared - The Hold True megrits freezinch Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Events Rend, 5-1 Queen's America, Rarie Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOLIAN (250) Mass P httms: 6 11 5	
12 Mar BEB 12 3 4	6FROPP MILIT WEE ITHES: 3-1 Ace, 8-1 To 0CFFF- 013/0F3	- 12 declared - The Hold True megrits freezinch Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Events Rend, 5-1 Queen's America, Rarie Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOLIAN (250) Mass P httms: 6 11 5	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5	6P00PF mmm weg merc: 3-1 fee, 8-1 Te 013/0P3 . PP 30-63/16	- 12 declared - 12 declared - 12 declared - 12 declared - 13 declared - 14 declared - 15 declared -	
12 Mar BEB 12 3 4	6700.0 F 178.0 3-1 186. 8-1 To 18.40 19.0797 19.0	12 declared - 12 lios True weights: American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Evento Rario, 5-1 Queen's America, Rario Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2rm 4f AEOLIAN (250) Mass P White 6 11 5	
12 Mar BEB 12345	6700.0 F 178.0 3-1 186. 8-1 To 18.40 19.0797 19.0	- 12 declared - 12 declared - 12 declared - 12 declared - 13 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 15 declared - 15 declared - 16 declared - 16 declared - 16 declared - 17 declared -	
12 Mar 12 3 4 5 5 7	6700.00 17180: 3-1 16e, 8-1 Te 16e, 8-1 Te 17180: 3-1 17180:	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets American Set 3 fectore 9st 10. 15 feets American Set 3 fectore 9st 10. 16 feets American Set 3 feets 9st 10. 17 feets American Set 3 feets 10. 17 feets American Set 3 feets 10. 18 feets 10 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 11 feets 10. 12 feets 10. 13 feets 10. 14 feets 10. 15 feets 10. 16 feets 10. 17 feets 10. 18 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 10 feets	
12 Mar Bib 1234567 BE	6700.00 100.0	- 12 declared - The Dest True weights Americand Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Beating Rand, 51 Queen's American, Rarie Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOLAN (250) Mass P thruse 6 11 5	
12 Mar BE Black 12 3 4 5 6 7 BE	6700.00 100.0	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets American Set 3 fectore 9st 10. 15 feets American Set 3 fectore 9st 10. 16 feets American Set 3 feets 9st 10. 17 feets American Set 3 feets 10. 17 feets American Set 3 feets 10. 18 feets 10 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 10 feets 10. 11 feets 10. 12 feets 10. 13 feets 10. 14 feets 10. 15 feets 10. 16 feets 10. 17 feets 10. 18 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 19 feets 10. 10 feets	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5 6 7 BEIO	6/700/P weam weg TIBME: 3-1 Te 8.40 QCPPP. 40 30-6346 33346 33346 TIME: 7-4 peror, Soo	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fectared - 11 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fec	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5 6 7 BEIO	6/700/P weam weg TIBME: 3-1 Te 8.40 QCPPP. 40 30-6346 33346 33346 TIME: 7-4 peror, Soo	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fectared - 11 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fec	
12 Mar BE 12 3 4 5 6 7 BE Em	6/700/P weam weg TIBME: 3-1 Te 8.40 QCPPP. 40 30-6346 33346 33346 TIME: 7-4 peror, Soo	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fectared - 11 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 fectared - 16 fectared - 17 fectared - 18 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 19 fectared - 10 fec	
12 MBEBB 1234567 BEB	6700.P mmm weg TIBIC: 3-1 die. B-1 Tig die.	12 flockmed - 12 flockmed - 12 flockmed - 12 flockmed - 13 flockmed - 14 flockmed - 15 flockmed - 16 flockmed - 16 flockmed - 16 flockmed - 17 flockmed - 18	
12 Me Bla 1234567 BEN 1	6700.P mmm weg TIBIC: 3-1 die. B-1 Tig die.	12 loctared - 12 loctared - 12 loctared - 13 loctared - 14 loct True weights American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 15 locares American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 15 locares American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 15 locares Set 3th. 16 loctares Set 3th. 16 loctares Set 3th. 16 loctares Set 3th. 17 loctares Set 3th. 18 loctares Set 3th. 18 locares Set 3th. 19 locares Set 3th. 19 locares Set 3th. 19 locares Set 3th. 19 locares Set 3th. 10 locares Set 3th. 10 locares Set 3th. 10 locares Set 3th. 10 loctared Set 3th. 10 loctared Set 3th. 10 loctared Set 3th. 10 loctared Set 3th. 10 locares Set 3	
12 MBB 1234567 BEN 12	6700.P mmm weg TIBIC: 3-1 die. B-1 Tig die.	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets Ansard, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister 15 feets Rard, 5-1 Queen's Ansard, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Rard, 5-1 Queen's Ansard, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister 17 feets Rard, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 17 feets Rard, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 18 feets Rard, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 18 feets Rard, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 19 feets Rard,	
12 MBB 1234567 BEN 123	6700.P mmm weg TIBIC: 3-1 die. B-1 Tig die.	PLI 10st True weights freezinch Set 3th. Crowne Set 1b. Beatin Rath, 5-1 Queen's Americ, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2rm 4f AEOLAN (250) Mes P White 6 11 5	
12 ASEB 1234567 SEM 1234	6700.P furrum weg TIBRE 3-1 fide, 8-1 Tig 3.40 QCPPP. 9130.P3 SPP 4916 333346 B0.3 TIBRE 7-4 peror, Sec. 5-5	12 Idectared - 12 Idectared - 12 Idectared - 13 Idea True weights Americal Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 14 Events Rents - 15 Ideaen's Americal Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 15 Events Rents - 16 Ideaen's Americal Set 3th. 16 Ideaen's Americal Set 3th. 17 Ideaen's Events - 18 Ideaen's Events	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5 6 7 BEIN 2 1 2 3 4 5	6700.P. 6700.P	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 15 feets American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 16 feets American Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. 17 feets American Set 3th. 18 feets American Set 3th. 19 feets Am	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5 6 7 SEE 12 3 4 5 6	6700.P. 6700.P	PLI LOS True weights freezinch Set 3th. Crowne Set 1b. Beedo Rento, 5-1 Queen's Award, Rare Spread, 7-1 Mister per Claw, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOLAN (250) Mes P White 6 11 5	
12 Marie 12 12 3 4 5 6 7 BETO 2 12 3 4 5 6 7	6700.P 67	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 17 fectare, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 17 fectare State State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 19 feets Residue Francis	
12 Marie 12 3 4 5 6 7 BE 12 3 4 5 6 7 8:	6700.P 67	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 17 fectare, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 17 fectare State State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 19 feets Residue Francis	
12 MBBB 1234567 BEN 12345678	6700.P 67	PLI LOS True weights Americal Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Beaton Ratio, 5-1 Queen's Americal Set 3th. Crowne Set 1th. Beaton Ratio, 5-1 Queen's Americal Ratio Spread, 7-1 Milister per Claw, Westerly Sale, 12-1 others TELFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 4f AEOLAN (250) Mes P White 6 11 5	
12 MBB 1234567 BE 12345678	6700.P furrum weg friets: 3-1 file, 8-1 Tu 3.40 QOPPP. (1) 30-6306 333346 B03 Trivit: 7-4 peror, See 5 0-0 32 2	12 fectared - 12 fectared - 12 fectared - 13 fectared - 14 fectared - 15 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 16 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 17 fectare, Westerly Gale, 12-1 others 17 fectare State State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State State Spread, 7-1 Mister 18 feets Residue State Spread, 7-1 Mister 19 feets Residue Francis	

TAUNTON

HYPERION 1.20 Vision Of Freedom 1.50 D'Naan 2.20 EVAN-GELICA (nap) 2.50 Edgemoor Prince 3.20 Bride-park Rose 3.50 Ultimate Smoothie 4.20 Pridewood Pricker

INSPECTION: 7.45am GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand course. Rim-in of 1749th.

Course is Soft trans in B3170. Tainton railway station is 2 miles away. ADMISSION: Members 51; Puidock 59; Centre of course S5. CAR PARK: Centre of course S3; remainder free. SIS SACTION

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Nordic Breeze (1.20); Calli Heights (150).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Benkurosam (150) has been sert.
151 miles by E Hollinshead from Upper Longdon, Staffortshure.

1.20 LEVY BOARD JANUARY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

1.50 PICKERIDGE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 1f 4605 ADOMESTS (35) D Elsworth 5 11 5 ...

Smiley Pace, 12-1 Babs Sam, 20-1 others

2.20 STEPHEN LITTLE AND DICK REYNOLDS BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 4m 2f 110yds

- 10 declared Minumum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Woodlands Boy & Frozen Drop
Set 11th, Okulladeon Set, Woodlands Gentre? Ist 2b, Masket Martin &st 11th.
SETTING: 5-2 have To Think, 7-2 Evangelica, 5-1 Bedaston, Sunlay Boy,
6-1 Woodlands Boy, 8-1 Frozen Drop, Killeshin, 33-1 others.

2.50 ERF NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS
2.50 D) £3,650 added 2m 3f 110yds
1 034-1P1 EDGEMOOR PRINCE (25) P Hooks 6 11 10
2 30-12 SPRING GALE (40) 0 Sherwood 6 11 10
3 6 BIG THEO (406) Airs P Dutield 6 11 DP Holley 4 0:006 DERRYS PREROGATIVE (24) A Carrol 7 11 0D Bridgewater
5 05P-2P MARKET MAYNEM (33) / Spearing 7 11 0 Richard Guest
6 OD MISSED THE MATCH (50) R Pooce, 7 11 0 P MicLoughin
7 0-50 SIERRA NEVADA (82) P Nicholis 6 11 0 O Buttons (5)
8 004 WEATHER WISE (54) W Turner 5 11 0 J Power (7)
9 0-0 BROWN WREN (29, P Hoobs 6 10 9
11 222-644 ELEANORA MUSE (41) Pado; Faren 7 10 9 Gay Lenis (3)
12 RIGHT LELYTHE FRLY (29) Mr. Barbara Wanng 5 10 2 R Greene
13 PIOCOLINA R Praigs 5 10 9 Railton
14 00-09 TIMBER'S CLESS (38) A Jones 6 10 9
- 14 declared - BETTHIC: 7-4 Spring Gale, 2-1 Edgemoor Prince, 8-1 Dr's Lest, 12-1
Beanors Muse, Sierra Nessda, Weather Wise, 14-1 Market Mayhem.
20-1 others
3.20 BICKENHALL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 3f
(CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 3f
1 02211-3 THE NEWE CAPTAIN (45) (0) 0 Sherwood 10 12 0
Qsborne
2 1/5PP 3P GERDON (28) P Webber 6 11 6
3 0-3U23 BRIDEPARK ROSE (26) P Ritchers 9 10 12 5 Fox 4 013654 CHRIS'S GLEN (35) J M Brader 8 10 7
Michael Brenton (5) V
5 P3265-5 OLLIVER DUCKETT (88) C Popitam 8 10 6 T O'Counce (7)
6 03R/-563 WINNOW (28) Andrew Turnell 7 10 0
7 053-465 JHAL FREZ! (41) (8F) A Barrow 9 10 0Mr R Thornton (5)
Minimum: 10st. True handezo webitt. Minimus Set 13th. Jhai Frez Set 11th.
Ministers: 109. True hands:sp web;". Wirece 9st 13th. Itali Frez 9st 13th. BETTBHS: 9-4 The Miles Captain, 3-1 Bridepath Rose, 9-2 Chris's Glen, 6-
Minimum: 10st. True handezo webitt. Minimus Set 13th. Jhai Frez Set 11th.
Ministeric 10st. True handscap weight. Worsco Sst 13th. Itali Frez Sst 11th. BETTRIC: 9-4 The Mileo Captain, 3-1 Bridepatic Rose, 9-2 Chris's Gleo, 6- 1 Itali Frezi, 7-1 Winnow, 12-1 Sortion, Officer Dockett
Ministers: 109. True hands:sp web;". Wirece 9st 13th. Itali Frez 9st 13th. BETTBHS: 9-4 The Miles Captain, 3-1 Bridepath Rose, 9-2 Chris's Glen, 6-

O5- VTD, NUOVA (285) W Jerks 6 11 0 ______ Hr A Nitchell MR'S QUEST (P Hobbs 4 10 7 ______ M Moran (7) SOCIETY TRIESS (USA) M Pop 4 20 7 _____ G Supple (7)

- 13 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Sheisang, 3-1 Mountain Storm, 4-1 Society Times, 9-2 King Of The Brase, 7-1 itsahardire, 10-1 Blowing Rock, 12-1 others

_	11	hai Frezi.	7-1 Winnow, 12-1 Gordon, Oliver Duckett
)	[3	3.50	YARCOMBE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 1f
y	1	113141	ULTRIATE SMOOTHEE (24) M Pice 5 12 0 A P McCoy
9	3		SHOW FAITH (35) P Hornon 7 11 12 A McCarthy
*	3	02460	ROMANS RUTTER (406) D Sources 9 11 9 P Holley
þ	4	306	SAMEL (35) J Multins 9 11 2
מ	5	3-36251	SHEFT AGAIN (44) (D) O Sherwood 5 11 1
ń			
Ė	6		ALMAPA (77) (CD) R Hodges 5 to 13 Hards (7)
4	7	314P64	ATH CHEANNAITHE (43) (CD) J Novelle 5 10 13
			D Bridgister
•	8	04U-P5	CHILL HEIGHTS (31) N. Histor 7 10 8
5	9	0.3FP43	COUNTRY IGNSTREE, [29] S Down 6 10 7 C Rae (7)
6 6	10	3990-4	LITTLE SHEFFORD (61) M. Mussanice 5 10 6 Lawrence
2	11	14552P	SKRAM (41) R Doors 1 10 6
	12	50-6306	MILLING BROOK (27) J Brade; 5 10 6 Michael Bressan (5)
2	13	56 PP42	PARADE RACER (50) P Murphy 6 10 3
•	14	60.077/	SOBER ISLAND (614) Mrs D Thomas S 10 0 Guy Lewis (3)
	-	-4	- 14 decizned -
_	Min	imum web	ht: 10st. True hand-tap weight: Sober stand 9st 10th.
5	BEI	TIME: 5-2	Utelenate Secotible, 3-1 Show Faith, 4-1 Shift Again, 7-1
5			. 10-1 Almana, 12-1 Country Minstrel, Figures Flatter, 14-
		abel 16-1	
_			
r,			

4.20 CURLAND HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 1f

231144 YUERALEE RUSA) (50) (CD) M Pige 5 11 10 A P McCoy 6-05512 PRIDEMOCO PICKER (31) (CD) (BF) R Price 10 10 4... 216643 CHANTEY BEATH (234) P Marphy 6 10 3 W McFerford 213177 St counts are the feet of the counts are the counts of the counts are the counts of the counts

213122 GLOWENG PATH (25) (D) R Hodges 7 10 0 J Harris (7) - 7 declared
BETTOK: 5-2 Yubcaine, 7-2 Printerwood Picker, 4-1 Nine O Three, 5-1 Glowing Path, 6-1 Chestry Beath, 8-1 Le Weound, 14-1 Fast Century

sport

With the issue of a share prospectus imminent, Newcastle needed to replace Keegan with a proven winner

Almost lost in the clamour of an abiding mystery. However, it soon be eligible for a bus pass and Kenny Dalglish's appointment to does not take a mind for these discounted travel on the railways? succeed Kevin Keegan as the New-things to understand why castle manager were the somewhat Dalglish chose to speak more on the strength of his achievevague, unsolicited explanations he specifically than before about past ments, both at home and abroad in gave for walking away from Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers.

across the airwaves and in newspapers, but you could not help suspecting that references to ough) and a matter concerning Ray Harford that could not be made public had a great deal to do with Newcastle's proposed share

In common with the majority of sports journalists. I would not know one end of a balance sheet

Not much was made of this cross the airwaves and in news-Keegan's departure, precipitated by the need to declare his disendisasters" (Heysel and Hillsbor- chantment to potential investors, made Newcastle exceedingly nervous. With the issue of a share prospectus imminent, they needed to replace Keegan with a proven winner.

Leaving aside quite ridiculous romantic notions, a good question, you may think, is why did Newcastle first from another and the FT Index is approach Bobby Robson, who will

The answer, we can be sure, is that club football, and as a former Eng-

Incidentally, towards the end of last week, and I know this to be true, some bets were struck in the confident belief that a proposal had been put to Peter Beardsley. Whether this was the case or it was subsequently withdrawn is not known, but the odds against him shortened considerably.
So to Dalglish, who did not come

fully into the reckoning until he met with Newcastle's officials on Mon-



day. The obvious mark against him, one that surely disturbed the underwriting institutions, was that he had walked out on previous employers. When I put this to someone well versed in such things, he said: "If it was me I would want some plausible reasons. I'm not sure that Dalglish has gone far enough irrelevance, as Hugh McIlvanney around to acknowledging that there in explaining himself. He had to say once referred to sport generally, it is too much professional football besomething, but I'm surprised that nobody took him and Sir John Hall up on it or that the City will be entirely satisfied."

I have found the Newcastle Keegan saga disturbing. The impression last week was that we were involved with a national disaster, not mere-ly the departure of a disillusioned football manager. A passion for the game is all well and good, but surely not at the expense of all

Football may have blinded past working-class generations to the insidious advance of social injustice, but in the main it remained a diversion from the realities of life. Now, instead of being a magnificent

has become, worringly to my mind, an obsession.

On the way to a match last Saturday. I heard a mournful report. from the streets of Newcastle accompanied by a cornet player's lament. It was as though news had been received of Keegan's death. On television the faces were those of annious relatives gathered at a pit disaster or some other terrible calamity. Even allowing for foot-ball's special place in the region's history and the optimism raised by Keegan's inspiration, should a game mean so much? I don't think so.

According to a report on these pages yesterday, the Fifa president, João Havelange, has come

ing played in the world. "Everyone, players, directors, doctors, coaching staff, wants to make money and for that to happen, they have to play," he said. Fifa, he added, remains powerless to do anything

Everywhere the smell of money. Too many matches, too much football on television, too much trivia. Escalating transfer fees, salaries out of all proportion to ability. The City taking over.

about this.

As for Daiglish, when offered a return to management earlier this season, he claimed to be interested only in a well-paid job on the periphery of the game. Now look what he has got himself into.

Henman aiming to be the dictator

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melbourne

Tim Henman has decided on an attacking policy in his bid to add Michael Chang, the world No 2, to his growing list of victims.

I have nothing to lose and feel if I can be aggressive I can be the dictator, said Henman. ahead of tomorrow's Centre Court match with Chang in the third round of the Australian Open. "I feel I have a good chance against most players at present and don't think my preparation could be any better."

Henman was speaking after a performance against France's Guillaume Raoux which his delighted coach, David Felgate, described as "clinical".

The 22-year-old Henman won 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, dropping only 17 points on his serve and maintaining his focus despite two stoppages for rain. "Tim had a job to do and did it," Felgate said. "It was delightful to watch one of his best displays in a grand slam event."

However, Chang will be a far tougher proposition than drinking every night he will go Raoux, especially as he looked very high. I didn't feel I could do in terrific form in his 6-3, 7-5.
6-1 defeat of Richey Reneberg.
anything – not for a single moment did he drop to my level.

The second seed, runner-up to Boris Becker last year, made only 15 unforced errors compared to Henman's 35.

Chang, winner of the French Open in 1989 when just 17, said of facing Henman for the first time: "It will be tough. He was coming on strong last year and has been playing some good tennis. I know my shots must be pre-

cise. I'm looking forward to it." Henman said: "I must keep serving well to come out on top. Everyone knows he will make a lot of balls, but I've won seven successive matches now and I'm very comfortable and confident.

"You can't take that for granted, though. You can't expect just to go on court, time the ball well and serve big. But I hope I have the type of game he doesn't like - my style is not to take him on from the baseline. I know being aggressive is the right approach."
Raoux said of Henman: "He

uses 100 per cent of his poten-tial. He has a great feeling for match play, is intelligent on court and always does what you are not expecting. If he does not

"He can certainly worry Chang as Chang is not a big server, and Henman is the type of player Chang does not like. All the rubbish has been cleaned out of his game and potentially he can beat anyone in the world right now. He's full of confidence, but not a guy who you feel is playing above him-self. He is playing within him-

The day's singles play ended with a marathon. The former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, the 15th seed, was knocked out by the unseeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev. 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-9 in a match lasting nearly three and a half hours which finished well after

Bathed in sweat, Medvedev used a blistering backhand and superior court speed to upset a tetchy Stich, whose usually booming serve mistired and who committed unforced errors at crucial times.

Steffi Graf is still favourite to win the women's singles, but was given a fright by Latvia's Lar-isa Neiland. Graf lost the first four games before recovering to

Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the 10th seed, won the first set

WIN A VIP TRIP TO

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA





ki before crashing to defeat. Hiraki took the second 6-1 and the decider 6-4 in a remarkable

turnaround. postponed after her mother collapsed outside the player's son winning their opening 6-0 against Japan's Rika Hira-

collapsed just before the German fifth seed was due to face Italy's Francesca Lubiani. Huber's mother, Gerda, was treat-

lounge and was then taken to

Anke Huber had her match ed by ambulance staff after she Petchev and Andrew Richard-

Britain enjoyed success in the men's doubles, with Mark

match. Neil Broad, who partnered Henman to Olympic sil-

ver last summer, also won, partnering South Africa's Piet Norval. Results, Digest, page 27

Galthié recalled again

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Fabien Galthie has spent the past six years trying to convince a va-riety of French selectors that he is the long-term answer to his country's most pressing person-nel problem. On Saturday, the resilient scrum-half's international career starts afresh once again when he takes the field at Lansdowne Road for the Five Nations opener against Ireland.

Galthie has been preferred to Guy Accoceberry and will make his 17th appearance for the Tricolores in Dublin, His last Test was against England in the World Cup play-off match 18 months ago when he replaced Accoceberry.

It was way back in 1981 that Galthie, now 27, first broke into the French side as Pierre Berbizier's successor. His relationship with Berbizier, who took over as coach, was not always comfortable, however, and he soon found himself losing out to virtually any scrum-half who pitched up for training with a pair of boots as Aubin Hueber, Alain Macabiau and Accoceberry took it in turus.

This time, Jean-Claude Skrela and his fellow selectors have put experience before experimentation. Already without two key men in Philippe Saint-André, the captain, and Olivier Roumat, their main source of line-out possession, the French management are keen to keep risks to a minimum.

at No 8, and drafted in David Venditti, who scored a brilliant try for Brive in the Heineken Cup semi-final victory over Cardiff earlier this month, at left wing.

The line-up has a reassuringly familiar look to it and Skrela sees his devil-you-know approach as a bulwark against complacency. "It would be a gross mistake to take Ireland

lightly." he said yesterday. Paul Burke, Ireland's reserve outside-half against France, has dropped out because of knee damage. His place on the bench has gone to David Humphreys, whose London Irish team-mate,



captain, models his country's new kit, the first change to their familiar all-gold shirt since the 1960s. A former Wallaby, Peter FitzSimmons, described the new kit as a "dog's

They have reshuffled their Garry Halpin, has also pulled back row. recalling Fabien Pelous out of the senior squad with knee trouble. The uncapped prop. Paul Flavin, has been promoted from the A team.

The Scots, who face Wales at Murrayfield, had rather more than a possible outbreak of complacency on their minds yesterday. Gregor Townsend was pulled out of a training session at the stadium when he complained of shoulder trouble. Ron Eriksson, the London Scottish centre, will come off the bench if Townsend fails to respond to medical treatment.

At least Simon Shaw, the English lock-forward who has achieved the remarkable feat of almost guaranteeing himself a place on this summer's Lions tour in advance of his debut in the Five Nations, has more time to overcome his physical setbacks.

An automatic selection for the Calcutta Cup match with Scotland at Twickenham on 1 February, Shaw is suffering from a recurrence of a back problem that causes muscle spasms and, worryingly, he has been advised that the condition is inoperable. "There is not a lot anyone can do," he said before taking a brief part in the na-tional squad's training session at a fog-bound Bisham Abbey yesterday. "However, I am fit enough to consider myself available for selection right now," FRANCE (v tretand, Lansdowne Road, Saturday): J-L Sadourny, E N'Tarrack, F Dourthe, T Castagnéde, D venditt; A Penaud, F Gaitine; C Castaro, M Dal Maso,

recruit forwards &

Salford

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Salford will be able to field five Test forwards in their Super League pack this season following the signings of David Hulme and Esene Faimalo.

Hulme, capped eight times by Great Britain as a half-back but now primarily a loose-forward, has joined the club as a free agent from Leeds.

Faimalo, who missed all of last season with Leeds after detaching a retina, can play prop or second row and has been capped by both New Zealand and Western Samoa.

"Our coach, Andy Gregory. has been drumming it into me that we need a pack of forwards that can compete in the Super League." John Wilkinson, the Salford chairman, said. "We now have the strength in depth

we are going to need." Gregory, who played alongsid.
Hulme at Widnes, said: "We always used to like coming to Salford, but we want to make it the sort of place teams hate to come to. David Hulme is a play-

er people detest playing against." Faimalo, who also started his British career with Widnes, and who, like Hulme, has agreed a two-year contract, will make his debut for Salford in Gary Sanderson's testimonial

match at Warrington on Sunday. Hulme trained with his new team-mates for the first time vesterday and will be held back, but Salford's other newly signed Test forwards, Andy Platt and John Cartwright, will appear in

their colours for the first time. With the New Zealand international Peter Edwards at hooker, Salford now have an enviable nucleus of experience in their side for the coming season.

Warrington expect to field their three new men from New Zealand – Dallas Mead, Nigel Vagana and Tony Tatupu – as well as the former Great Britain hooker Martin Dermott.

Paris St-Germain have made moves to raise their profile by signing a TV deal with the French network, Canal Plus. and linking up with the marketing arm of their parent football club. Halifax have completed their

overseas quota by signing the Australian centre or wing David Bouveng from the North Queensland Cowboys on a 12month contract.

TODAY'S NUMBER

Bruce Grobbelaar T-shirts were on sale for just £3 in the club shop at Plymouth Argyle FC on Tuesday, the first day of their goalkeeper's trial at Winches ter Crown Court on match. fixing charges. They were previously on sale at £10.

The Independent and The National Football League have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a guest, the chance to see all the excitement of the Super Bowl live. The winner of our exclusive competition will fly from London to New Orleans where they will enjoy seven nights accommodation in New Orleans, America's party city. On Sunday 26th January our winner will enjoy VIP hospitality at the Super Bowl XXXI to watch the Green Bay Packers versus the New England Patriots. In addition we have 20 American Football caps for the runners up, kindly signed and donated by former Dallas Cowboy, Drew Pearson of the Differ Pearson Cap Company.

ime and 45p per minute at all other times.

In order to enter, answer the following three questions and call our competition hotline on 0891 111 214:

Lines will close midnight on 16/01/97. • Calls will last two mi Calls cost 50p per minute daytime and 45p per minute at all o

1. What is the name of the Green Bay Packers home field?

A - Candlestick Park B - Lambeau Field C - Three Rivers Stadium 2. With which team did New England Patriots coach Bill

Parcells win a Super Bowl with? A - Dailas Cowboys
B - New York Jets
C - New York Giants

per 3 12XI will be held in the city of New Orleans. tame is New Orleans referred to as?

Call: 0891

Prize includes seven nights accommodation, match tickets for two, transfer to and from New Orleans at port plus \$100 towards meals and other expenses
 You will need to have a valid British passport.
 Flights depart from London Gatwick on 22/01/97 and return on 30/01/97.

Radford offers fresh initiatives

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Prize money at domestic meetings this season and renewed efforts to secure the 2001 World Championships and the 2008 Olympics for Britain were among the initiatives highlighted yesterday by the beleaguered head of the British Athletic

Federation, Peter Radford. The federation's executive chairman has been fiercely criting in March. icised in some quarters – notably the AAAs of England - for his performance over the last three years. In that time the domestic sport has suffered a costly pay dispute with several top athletes

and seen revenue from television and sponsorship drop.

The federation made a reported loss of £750,000 in the last two years, and stands to lose another £300,000 if it cannot recoup its loss following the collapse of the company which sponsored last summer's post-Olympic Performance Games.

It is rumoured that some clubs are planning to propose a vote of no confidence in Radford at the BAF annual meet-

Criticisms about poor communication from the top were exacerbated two weeks ago by the effective dismissal of the fedcration's spokesman. Tony Ward, which left athletics as the only

major sport in this country without a recognised press officer.

Radford accepted yesterday that this was a "ridiculous situ-ation" and said it would be rectified soon. But there is still much to be done in communicating within the sport. Radford, however, denied he felt under any personal pressure in his position. pointing out the BAF management board had given him their full backing at the weekend.

The sport is poised to take advantage of a totally new situation and new opportunities that are available to us now," he said. The BAF is expected to receive new revenue funding of around £4m per year through the National Lottery this spring.

push ahead towards what he describes as "a wonderful scenario", involving bringing the 2001 World Championships and the 2008 Olympic Games to the new National Stadium at Wembley. He said a working party had already been set up with the British Olympic Association to forward the Olympic ambition.

Radford also confirmed this season would mark a shift in rewarding athletes at British meetings which would involve money based on performance as well as appearance. These things don happen by chance, he said "They only come about through looking ahead and deciding what kind of future you want

Ballesteros' C

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around to acknowledging that the is too much professional football. ing played in the world. Every players, directors, doctors, compared wants to make mg staff, wants to make me and for that to happen, they ke to play," he said. Fifa, he added mains powerless to do anyl

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Salford recruit forward

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

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Kenny Dalglish stands up to the task as David Ginola slips

Dalglish begins his reign on the Tyne

snokesman for the Toon Army appeared on German television. What will it feel like when your team gets a new manager?" he was asked. "Like finding wor lass in bed with another man,"

came the reply. They may have needed sublitles to get the drift in Hamburg, whence Keegan beetled after leaving his old No 7 shirt on the Mersey beat. But yesterday morning it was clear that Tyneside was enjoying the thrill of its affair with the new king

John Harle, the presenter of the morning phone-in show on BBC Radio Newcastle, even uttered the words: "Kevin who?" Mischievous it may have been, but his aside was met with a

When Kevin Keegan flew the resounding echo from his see-Magpies' nest last week, a ond caller.

"Kevin Keegan was a spoilt brat, you know," the belligerent Bob said. "He ran off 'cos he couldn't get his own way."

Then he came to his point: "As a licence payer I'm fed up of all this Newcastle United, Newcastle United'. Someone has made a smashing new window for Durham Cathedral. You should make more of that." At 9.50am, in the very shadow of Durham Cathedral and

its unheralded new window,

Kenny Dalglish could be seen through the glass of Terry Mc-Dermott's car, relaxed and smiling as he prepared to clock in his morning shift as English football's first £1m manager. Half an hour later, he emerged from the pavilion at the

Simon Turnbull watches Newcastle's Toon Army welcome their new saviour

Durham University sports cen-tre sporting his new week-day into his new club's familiar tre sporting his new week-day overalls: a black and white training top. The spontaneous applause from the 300 or so souls in attendance was acknowl-

حكاب الاعل

At his previous place of work, the new manager of Newcastle would not have needed to pick his way through a scrum of autograph hunters and camera crews. To get within quarter of a mile of the Blackburn training ground, you need an appointment and proof of identity.

That may, or may not, be the case once Dalglish gets his feet comfortably under the manag-er's table at St James'. On his

match-day routine. Light training on the morning of an evening game is strictly op-tional and those fellow former edged with an impish grin. Rovers, Alan Shearer and David Batty, were among the absentees. They missed a glimpse of the old magic as their twinkle-

> ber at seven-a-side. He started off at right-back, slipping on the wet turf but beating David Ginola with his first challenge. Peter Beardsley was on his side and watching them shuffle and feint, side by side, was like having double vision.

Neither scored but they were

toed gaffer made up the num-

triumphant after 15 minutes each way, the boys in black and white beating the red-hibbed brigade 2-1. The Toon Army had been won over 100. *Just look at him at the back, man. one foot-soldier said, leaning on the counter of the Yankee Doodle refreshment stall. "He knaas hoo to defend. That's what wu

need to win a trophy." It took the new defender of the black and white faith so long to get through the masses he missed the first two goals of his new management career. By the time Dalglish made it to the pavilion's upstairs canteen, his youth team had gained and lost the lead in the Northern Intermediate League fixture on the main pitch. He watched the remaining 75 minutes through

one of Durham's finest plate

not only turned up; they collected three points. Thus the Dalglish era started with a 2-1 defeat for Newcastle.

It was not all had news, however. The lunchtime bulletin on Radio Newcastle finished with this latest ditty composed by Sister Josepha. Tyneside's singing Nun and schoolteacher: "Ring the church bells. Play the fanfare... Welcome, Kenny, to St James'. You can hear the Toon Army sing: Goodbye, Kevin! Hello, Kenny!

"I'm sure God likes football as well." Sister Josepha assured the listeners. The newsreader. however, confessed to being

"very, very, very confused". "I thought God had left St James' Park," he said, "to be replaced by his only son last night.

Anelka to join Vieira at Arsenal

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Arsène Wenger's French connections have paid off again with the signing of the 17-year-old striker Nicolas Anelka from Paris St-Germain.

The Arsenal manager, who was responsible for fellow Frenchman Patrick Vieira's arrival at Highbury, has persuaded Anelka to cross the Channel at the start of next season. The teenager has signed a two-year contract, but no details of a fee have as yet been disclosed.

"People don't show enough confidence in me [at PSG]," Anelka said. "At Arsenal, I've been assured that I would be on level terms with the other forwards. In France, there are other young players who play in the big teams. They've had their chance. There's only me who has played only one full match. I'm not leaving for the money, I'm leaving to play."

Anelka's resolve to leave PSG appears to have been strengthened by the club's signing of another striker, the for mer France international Cyrille Pouget, PSG already have Patrice Loko and Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes as their first-choice strikers.

Fabrizio Ravanelli has cried foul over the "Middlesbrough are doomed comments he allegedly made in an Italian newspaper.
"Middlesbrough are in a bad

situation because we are at the bottom of the table, but I did not say anything about relegation," the striker said. "I have given an explanation to the manager apologised because I have nothing to apologise over."

Chelsea have admitted making an inquity about the Milan Bradford City's record signing. defender Paolo Maldini, but

£17m bid for the 28-year-old international. The club's managing director. Colin Hutchinson, conceded an approach was made last week.

"I asked them about Maldini and they said he was not for sale," Hutchinson said. "As far as I am concerned, that is the end of it. They were not even prepared to negotiate, although must say that for £17m I would have wanted the whole of Milan. No fee was ever mentioned. Our interest was very much tongue in cheek."

West Ham's unsettled striker, Florin Raducioiu, has returned to his former club Espanyol – a move which will allow the Hammers to bid for Celuc's Pierre van Hoondonk. Raducioiu cost £2.4m when he moved from the Spanish club in the summer and it is believed his return will leave the Hammers £1m out of pocket. Sheffield Wednesday have

been rebuffed by the Spanish striker Moises Garcia Leon. who has joined Celta Vigo instead. The Wednesday forward Mark Bright is having talks Swiss club Sion after completing a month's loan at Millwall. Claus Thomsen, the Ipswich

midfielder and Danish international, will join Everton for £900,000 today. The 26-year-old will complete a medical and then sign a a four-and-a-half vear contract.

Dion Dublin is to be disciplined by Coventry City after his double sending-off which has resulted in a seven-match ban. "He has put me in a position where I will have to take some disciplinary action," Gordon and the players, but I have not Strachan, the City manager, said. "I haven't decided what and I won't be in a hurry."

have dismissed suggestions of a £550,000 from Southampton.

Students seek a way through mist of Motspur



The Oxford University team rest behind the goal at half-time in their annual match against London University at Motspur Park vesterday

Hockey BILL COLWILL London University Oxford University

Gordon Watson has become the centre-forward costing

be treated as a national monu-

ment that should not be

Wilcox finally finds chink of light

Roger Wilcox's moment of clarity four seconds from time secured victory for Oxford University yesterday in their in the game. annual game against London in the thick, swirling fog at Motspur Park.

dominated, and only an out- defending by Oxford gave Justanding display of goalkeeping lian Soles the opportunity to by Lar Hewell, London's Gerput London ahead with a rasoing shot from the edge of the man custodian from the Rot Weiss Koln club, kept the hosts circle. Moments earlier, the players had managed to persuade the umpires to continue After 30 minutes of soaking

up constant Oxford pressure, a a game which was quickly bedefence-splitting pass from coming a farce. Satyen Gohil and some naive The tactical switching by the

coach, Gavin Featherstone, of ditions, and he seemed un-Oxford's experienced Ben beatable until, at Oxford's sev-Cope to the right side of mid- enth penalty corner, the ball field and the introduction of the was eventually scrambled past former London player Charlie Oliver into attack exerted even greater pressure.

the German goalkeeper by

With the match ebbing Hewell, however, appeared away, a cracking shot from the to have no difficulty in picking edge of the circle by Wilcox, out the ball in the murky con-Oxford's squash captain,

sealed the game. With both sides going back to their League programme on Saturday, the opportunity to complete the game - thanks to some sensible and sympathetic umpiring - will have been

greatly appreciated.

London University: L Hewell; J Gallford: S Finn, T Grant, P Mealen (capt); Imran Tavir, S Miners, A Plunkett; Satyen Gohal, A Terns, L Nolan, Substitute used: J Soles. Outrand University: L Crofts: T Griffots: N Berry, J Hodges, B Rauman, M Barr (capti; C Mac-Fariane, R Irvine, B Cope: R Wdcox, J Good-man, Substitutes used: G Bretton, C Oliver.

Umpires: NO'Brien & D Griffith (both SHUA).

Ballesteros' Old Course plea

Yesterday

bearing reports of its renovation. In an open letter, the Ryder Cup captain said: "It was with the greatest sadness that I read recently of the proposed changes to the Old Course. "The Old Course is the home

AND RESERVANCE COMBINATION First Divisions Brigmon 12 Swindon (I. Swarzen D Delora 18s 2 POSTPONED: PA Cap Taind round: Covertly v Work-nig (frozen pach), Third round replays; West Hern v Writedatin (fog)

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DR MARTENS LEAGUE Promier Deviation: Affectione Of Numerican C. Southern Deviation Proteins de Ford V. Nesquet (AN), League Cap Table rounds Burton 1 Haisseyman Form C. Challentam O Forest Green Rosers

Tuesday's late results

changed or altered by anyone Seve Ballesteros has made a plea for the Old Course at St at any time. Leave this beauti-Andrews to be left alone, after ful golf course, the holy ground of golf, as it was and as it always should be."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Mike Bonallack, secretary of and history of golf and it should

the Royal and Ancient, said yesterday he had replied to Ballesteros and assured him the changes to the Old Course were less dramatic than reported.

FA CARLEBERG VISSE Fourth round: Postoned: Reco ing Town v Banstead America

REMPN DIRECT LEAGUE Promier Division: Bris-Martor Form 1 Carlie 1.

tol Manor Form 1 Caine 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Borry Town 3 Compoun O; Ping
3 Royd 2: Lancardinad 3 Coessus 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First bidgion: Select Cay O Newcastle Town 2.

tors Cay u Mewcaste (OND &. MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Promier Di-visions Ossess Alban 2 Sheffeld 1.

WASTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Distainer Themes-neuri Town O Follestone Invets 2: Turbridge White 2

RESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI 5 Combined Ser-

y v. TIMS LEAGUE CUP Group Four Postponed by v Chestofield.

AVON INSURANCE COMEDINATION They Division Chesse () Natural () (abendaring 20min - Imaen pilo)

FA YOU'RE CUP Third rounds Shead City 2 AFC Box

RATION BREWERY NORTHERN League First

American football

A woman who falsely accused Michael trvin and Erik Williams, who both play from Jans Divisions, of sexually assaulting for Dallas Cowboys, of sexually assaulting her at gumpoint has been charged with filling a false police report. Nina Shahavaran, 23, faces up to six months in jail and a \$2,000 (£1,200) fine if convicted.

It was a game which Oxford

Badwinton

Backmainton

YONEY JAPAN OPEN (Tologo) Solocted resultar
Man's shriftes first round: P Knowles (Eng bt
H Shantau Unpan) 15-4 15-2: PE Hoyer-Lawen
(Den) to C Haughton (Eng) 15-12 15-11: D Heal
(Eng) bt Hing Yu-ta (Tou 13-15-15-11: 11-15-3: Secoud round: Stear-Laundeen to Knowles 15-7
15-6: PG Chragamen (Den) bt Heal 15-11 15-6.
Men's doubles first round: S Archer and C Hunt
(Eng) bt Chen (Chn: 28) and Wes Charly (Tol)
15-5-15-6: Women's shrighes first round: J Mann
(Eng) bt M Borg (Sec) 2-11 12-9 11-2.
Women's stoubles first round: Y Mans and H
Mans (Lepan) by D Kellogs and J Wingh (Eng) 15-7
17-14.

1: Buston 2 hour Green 1: Merrhy Tytill 1 Roang-Cute Warwet 1 utbendamen 50min - Forces pitch, Pent-posed Selectury v Weymouth; Sudbury Town v St. Jeans Selectury v Weymouth; Sudbury Town v St. ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Erdeld 1. Cershelton (abonaporet half date - Instern pitch). Postponeto. Ergys v Purfieet.

NBA; Boston 116 Golden State 108; Allente 95 Minnesota 93; Houston 106 New York 85; Chicago 108 Wasshrigen 107; Phoens 110 Denier 101; Portland 95 Detrot 85; LA Lei-ers 91 Vancouver 81; Secramento 105 Indi-ana 98 (cd.

Martin Speight has taken legal advice in his attempt to leave Sussex. He wants to fulfil his ambition of keeping wicket. to timil his amotion of receiping wicker, but he has not been able to do so at Sussex. He will ask the English Cnck-et Board's registration committee on 29 January to have his status reduced from list one to list two in order to increase his chances of finding another county. Speight's oppons are limited because regulations prevent him from joining a county which has signed two list one players in the last five years. He believes remaining on list one amounts to a re-

Johan Museeuw, the world champion from Belgium, has had surgery on an infected knee, injured in a fall during a mountain bike ride, to prevent blood por soning and will be out of action for at

Espanyol, the Spanish First Division club, yesterday signed the French goalkeep-er Pascal Olmete, who was dismissed by Lyon last week after injuring a team-

SPORTING DIGEST FA CUP Third round date: Set 25 Jan: Brent-fort v Manchester Cav. morrow. Wifliams, who has tonsilitis, is replaced by Lianelli's Robin McBryde, while the Cartiff hooker, Paul Young, moves up as a replacement.

FA CUP Tribrid round dota: Set, 25 Jan.: Brentiond v Manchesser Cuy.

NATIONWIDE FDOTBALL LEAGUE Furture
changes: Twe 21 Jan.: Cambridge Utild v Easter
from 11 Jan.; Fil 24 Jan.: Strelled Utild v Wokes,
from 25 Jan.; Set 25 Jan.: Ipssach v Wen
Bromssch (from 28 Jan.): Twe 28 Jan.: Securities
v Doncuster (from 1 Jan.): Twe 4 Febr. Carticle
v Tompay (from 11 Jan.): Twe 4 Febr. Carticle
v Tompay (from 11 Jan.): Peterbrough v Wariord (from 1 Jan.): Wycombe v Burnley (from 4
Jan.): Well 5 Febr. Cambridge Util v Northsampfrom 4 Jan.): Twe 1.1 Febr. Bournemouth v
Preston (from 4 Jan.): The 11 Jan.: Twe
Jan.: Well v Obchester (from 4 Jan.): Har 13 Jan.: Ser
Febr. Half v Obchester (from 4 Jan.): Fel 7 Mar: Barrsley v Sheffield Util (from 8 Jan.): Fel 1 Mar:
West Bromsach v Barrangsam (from 15 Mar.)
The 18 Mar: Wedford v Bristo) Rosest (from 4
Jan.: The 18 Mar: Wedford v Bristo) Rosest (from 4
Jan.: San 23 Mar: Ochsan v Crystal Police (from
22 Mer.). Sun 23 Mar: Ochsan v Crystal Police (from
22 Mer.).

22 Mord. AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD Second round: Ficture changes: Tue 21, Janc Peterborough v Walsal (from 14 Jan), Tue 28 Janc Witcham v Crewe (from 21 Jan), Tues 4 Febr: Northamp-ton v Luton (from 21 Jan),

Arnold Palmer underwent surgery yes-terday at the Mayo Medical Centre in Rochester, Minnesota, for the treatment of his prostate cancer.

ice hockey

NHL: Detroit 3 Los Angeles 3 (ot): New Jersey 4 Boston 2: Philadothia 3 Montreal 2: Philadothia 3 Montreal 4: Philadothia 3 Dollas 1; Vencouver 4 Flonda 4 (ot). Pools dividends

UTTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts 538,482,95, 23 £374,60, 22 £26,65, 21 £7,25. Feer draws £8,90, 10 horses £1,157,25, Feer aways £538,50. VERNORS: Trettle chance: 24 pts £29,042.95, 23 £194.00, 22 £26.90. Super Shots £21.90. Presider 10 (public on 8 correct) £189.50. ZETTERS: Trebbs Charace: 24pts £11.391.55. 23 £38, 22 £3.50, 21 £0.60. 4 manys £16.20, 8 homes £50, 4 draws £15.90, Suer 7 £799.60 per 1.758.50. BRITTENS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,053.95, 23 £26.35, 22 £2.50. 4 draws £8.40. 5 aways £78.60. 8 homes £40.80.

Rugby Union

The Scottish Rugby Union yesterday in-creased the ban imposed on the Stir-ling County centre James McLaren for kicking Meirose's Craig Chalmers in the head during the Tennent's Premiership match between the two clubs at Bndge-haugh. McLaren was onginally sus-pended for 20 weeks, but the SRU preched his annual and membersal ble rejected his appeal and increased his ban by six weeks.

Barry Williams, the Neath hooker, has withdrawn from the Emerging Wales side to play Scotland A in Edinburgh to-

١.

mures up as a repuscement.

Denek Bevan, the Weish referee, will take charge of the Heineken European Cupfinal between Leicester and Briwe at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday week. Bevan recently extended his world record to 32 internationals when he controlled the second Test between France and the second Test between France and

The World Cup qualifying match between Sn Lanka and Singapore, scheduled for Saturday in Colombo, has been post-poned for security reasons.

The Italian Alberto Tomba vesterday ad-

mitted he could miss Sunday's slalom in Wengen as he continues to recover from flu. The world and former Olympic champon, who has completed only two races this season, is on the brink of turn-bing out of the leading 15 of the Alpine World Cup gant slatom rankings for the first time in 10 years. Sumo

SUIDO
NEW YEAR ORAND TOURNAMENT (Tolgo)
Fourth days (Appleopp) won 2, lost 2) to
Destron C2-20 y debut; Meugestor C3-10 k Konstale, C2-2; Shidosterre C2-20 k Rive (3-1); Destron
C3-10 to Yamson (0-4); Tocheaums (3-1) to Koconsumer 2-21; Edward (2-2) to Manarokin (2-2); Destron
C3-20 to Year (2-2) to Manarokin (2-2); Destron
C3-20 to Year (2-2) to Manarokin (2-2); Destron
C3-20 to Year (1-3); Association
C3-20 to Ognovirus (1-3); Association
C3-20 to Ognovirus
C bi Takangnami (3-1); Museshimani (4-0) tonki (3-1); Wakenohana (4-0) tit Tama (3-1); Akebono (4-0) tit Musoyama Tosonoumi (3-1) bi Takanghana (3-1).

Tennis

Tennis

Australian Open (Melbourne) Men's singles second round: C Moya (Sp) bt P McEnor (US) 3-6 6-0 6-3 6-1; 1 Woodendge Clus) bt S Smight (Fr. 6-3 6-3 7-6: M CHANG (US) bt R Revelorg (US) 6-3 7-5-6: M CHANG (US) bt R Revelorg (US) 6-3 7-6: M CHANG (US) bt R Revelorg (US) bt S Sargson (Men) 1 M GUSTAFSSON (Swe) 3-6 7-6 6-4 6-4; B Harbacher (Gar) bt T Johansson (Swel) 6-3 6-2; E M Melbourne (Men) bt R Ran (Ch 6-2 6-2-2: TEN/MST (Swel) bt R Formberg (Aus) 6-4 6-4 7-5: M RIOS (Chie) bt M John (US) 8-0 6-4 6-2: T Herman (GB) bt G Rabus (Fr) 6-3 6-3 6-4; G S-Paller (Aut) or A Correct (US) 8-0 6-4 6-2: T Herman (GB) bt G Rabus (Fr) 6-6 6-3 6-3 4-6 6-3; F MANTILLA (Sp) bt F Melgon (BB) 6-2 6-4 6-1; S Magnera (So) bt M Larsson (Swel) 4-6 8-3 6-4 7-5; A Boetsch (Fr) bt I Rus (Fr) 6-4 6-4 6-1; Bjohrman (Swel) 4-6 8-3 6-4 7-5; A Boetsch (Fr) bt I Rus (Fr) 6-4 6-4 6-1; A Medveder (Ulir) bt M STICH (Ger) 4-6 6-1 6-2 4-6 9-7.

7-5 6-3; N Djotdjevc (Yug) and A Kenov (Maced) bt J-P Reuran (Fr) and N Persera (Nen) 6-3 7-5; M DAMM (Cz Rep) and A CU-IOVSKIY (Rus) bt B Hansen-Dent and B MacPhie IUS) 1-6 6-3 6-4; S Note-boom and F Witter (Nethi bt D ADAMS (SA) and M COSTING (Neth) 7-6 6-3; M Kennear and C Woodruff (US) bt A Belobrodic and G Doyle (Aust 7-8 6-3; P HARRHUS and J ELINGH (Neth) bu Bennerd (SA) and D Rondall (US) 7-6 7-6; M Petichey and A Rohendson (GB) bt J Fran Angla and B Shekon IUS) (6-2 6-4; W Arthurs and J Ireland (Aust bt C Brands and F Messon (II 6-3 3-6 29-27; J NOVAK and C SUK (Cz Rep) bt H-1 Dawds and S Schalten (Neth) 7-5 4-6 6-4; K Thornel and J Walae (US) 18 E Blewood and P Iremeach (Mace) and J SANCHEZ (Sp) bt J Fitzgerald and P Rafter (Aus) 7-5 5-7 6-4. S Schaleen (Neth) 7-5 4-6 6-4; K Thome and Jikkae (US) It is Ethecod and P Transacchi (Aus) 7-6 4-6 6-4; P Cash (Nes) and P Korde It2 Rep) It M Bhupath and I Parks (Ind) 6-3 6-2; S David (IS) and D MacPherson (Nes) It A Gouleton and D Nargeo (It 6-1 6-4; M Ondruske and G Statistic (SAI bit N Braasch and J Ivrippschild (Gerl 6-17-5; D Johnson and F Montana (US) It D Electric (IS) and J Tarango (IS) 7-6 7 11-9; P McDroe (US) and S Stolle (Aus) It G Narabout (Choa) and M Rosset (Sent) 6-3 6-7 6-1; I LOBO (Ang)

and J SANCHEZ (Sp) bt J Prizgierald and P Ratter (Aus.) 7-5 7-6-4. Witomon's slegies second round: S APPELMANS (Belt) to A Grossman (US) 6-4 6-1; N Zwereva (Beta) bt W Probst (Gen) 7-6 8-3; K Po (US) bt A Sugyama (Japan) 6-0 4-6 6-3; K Boogant (Neth) bt R Grande (IU 6-3 7-5; M Pietre (Fr) bt N Methedeven (UM) 6-2 6-2; M Rochta (Gen) bt A Elemond (Aus.) 6-0 4-6 6-1; R Haris (Japan) bt B SCHALTZ-MeCARTHY (Meth) 0-6 6-1 6-4; L DAVENPORT (US) bt P Perfect (IU 6-2 7-5; S GRAF (Gen) bt I. Nettand (Lut) 7-5 6-2; I Gonrachatega (Ang) bt G Fernandez (US) 7-5 6-2; I Gonrachatega (Ang) bt G Fernandez (US) 7-5 7-6; A Carleson (Swel bt P Hy-Boules (Cen) 2-6 6-3 8-0; C MARTINEZ (Sp) bt A Gens (CP Per) 6-2 7-6; M-I. Serna (Sp) bt I. Lee (US) 7-5 7-6; A COETZER (SA) bt J Randarr (Ben) 6-2 7-6. Measure & doubles first round: R Nrouthus and E Melichanova (Cz Rep) bt K Freye and S Meier (Gerl 6-2-6-3; Fank Sung-hee (S Norl and Wang Sh-Ting (Tai) bt S legaselan and R Simpson (Can) 7-5-6-2-V Rusmo-Pastual (Spt and P Suerez (Rep bt) Limmer (Aus) and L McShea (Aus) 6-2-6-1; N ARENDT (US) and M BOLLE-

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A determine the in the World weaming brings 3.5 T. A Principal Committee Market Champens the state of the s Ent No. Terror THE SHIPPING The second of the second is the confidence of the confi

Football FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Oldham Athlet to V Sunderland (7.0). v commentend (7.0).
PORTING LEAGUE Premier Division: Nor-tingham Forest v Liverpool (7.0); Sheffield Wednesday v Stoke (7.0). Langue Cap Brouth Times: Manchester Cay v Stockport (7.0).

Rugby Union ANGLO WEISH CUP Pool 28: Newport v Sara-cers (7.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Bonymeen v Neath (6.45); Cume v Henot's FP (7.0). Rasketball

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7-UP TROPHY Quarter-final first legs Lon-don Leopards v London Towers (7.0). Other sports BADMENTON: Under-21 International: England v Denmark v Sweden (Tellord). BOWLS: Welsh Masters (Lianelli).

CALOR COURTY ANTREM SHIELD Serui-Rest: Du-sades 2 Calorelle 2 Cycling

Football

Only a game? Ken Jones on the upheaval at

Newcastle United, page 26

sport

The dictator Tim Henman takes the hard-line approach, page 26



Bowyer 'has an attitude problem'

ROB KING

Lee Bowver has been urged to clean up his act as George Graham's hard-line Leeds United hung on for an FA Cup replay at Crystal Palace on Tuesday. Graham accused Palace of diving and criticised the referee Roger Dilkes for giving two penalties.

Dave Bassett, the Palace manager, countered with complaints about Premiership gamesmanship which put the Manchester official under intense pressure.

Bassett could not believe the antics of Bowyer, who stoked up the temperature at every op-portunity. The brief career of the England Under-21 midfielder has not been short of controversy on and off the field and Bassett said: "He's definitely got an attitude problem.

We had problems with him when he was at Charlton last year, he was roaring around, falling all over the place.

"He's a good player, I like him, he's got instincts about him. I couldn't believe how long he went before he was booked. "He was berating the referee

and he pushed Hopkins in the chest. Even after he was booked he carried on fouling.
"But you know Leeds do that. They pressurise the referec. We've had them watched and we know they go down looking for free-kicks and

everything else. "I couldn't believe the pressure the referee was put under, the number of decisions that

were contested. Mr Dilkes' evening exploded two minutes from time when he pointed to the Leeds spot for the second time and was surrounded by furious players for several minutes of protest.

When that subsided, Nigel Martyn crowned his return to nurst Park by pouncing on Bruce Dyer's poor kick, the my toes. Palace player then blasting the rebound wide.

"He's a good goalkeeper, he should be in the England team." Graham said. "I didn't realise that until I worked with him. He's an exceptional goalkeeper." Dyer had already beaten Martyn once after five minutes with his first penalty, with Leeds

also contesting that decision, given for a push by Paul Beesley. That was sandwiched by two visiting goals inside the first eight minutes - by Brian Deane and then a spectacular own goal by the Norwegian, Leif Andersen, which seemed set to put Leeds through to face Arsenal or Sunderland.

Carl Veart headed a fine second-half equaliser, though, and Palace might have had at least one other penalty.

Graham insisted Bassett's men were diving, and said: "So many people were going down in the box I'd like to see us copy Italian football and book the player if the referee doesn't

think it's a penalty." The Leeds manager, who denied making a £4m bid for Celtic's Portuguese striker, Jorge Cadete, admitted to a certain relief to escape with a re-play. Bassett went further: "If I was George, I'd be very happy to get on that coach still in the FA Cup because they should have been out."

Oyvind Leonhardsen has rejected suggestions that he is being lined-up for a big-money move to Italy - and insists he remains fully committed to the Wimbledon cause.

The Norwegian midfielder has been in brilliant form as the Dons have put together a sequence of just one defeat in 24 matches to move up to fifth in the Premiership, five points behind the leaders Liverpool with three games in hand, and into the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola

After last week's victory in the Coca-Cola Cup over Bolton, Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said he had received offers of £5m from Italian clubs. Leonhardsen, who again impressed in Tuesday's 1-1 FA Cup third-round draw at Crewe, said: "These stories about Italy are nothing more than rumours and I think the manager mentions them just to keep me on

"I am very happy to have set-tled in at Wimbledon. The Premiership suits my style and we are domg well as a team, so I have no reason to look elsewhere."

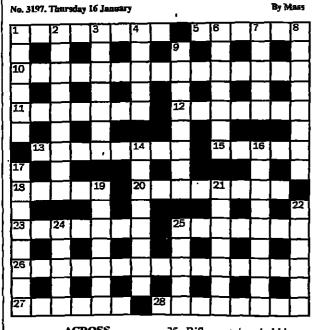
Leonhardsen, bought for £660,000 from Rosenborg Trondheim in November 1994. has two years of his current contract left.

Tricky Henman takes up and under route to victory down under



Tim Henman, the British No 1, fires a return backwards and between his legs on his way to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over the Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in the Australian Report, page 26. Results from Melbourne, page 27. Photograph: Steve Holland/AP Open vesterday

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



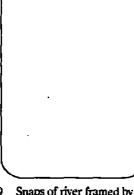
- Shortage of mark hitting
- EC (8)
 5 Like a condiment? I tend to abstain, vocally (6)
- 10 Stupidly. I disturb an onion sauce (15) 11 Patty's a frightful tattler
- 12 Drinker has one on the
- house, very quietly consumed (7)
- 13 Composer embracing church's fine example (8) 15 Section of a la mode cor-
- nice? (5)
 18 Grieve for the aristocracy?
- 20 River and pines dappled in
- right tint of dawn (4-4) 23 Clashes with medico (in films) (7)
- trust (7) 26 Ensemble with fourth of octets creates effect in the
- house (5-5,5)
 27 Note river's current (6) 28 Wintry month patterns, forming falls (8)
- DOWN Religion is so inwardly intimate (6) Steals paintings (9)
- An adept with any brogue (7) Card, one slotted into run Hundred? Inclined to be
- crowded (7) Box filled with women's fabric (5) Study dish without recipe?

Just the reverse (8)

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Back assues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 \$40370.

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- strength consumed within Ships of Northern pirates,
- it's said (7) 21 Study a country the Spanish knocked up (7) Holiday bay (6)
- Snaps of river framed by
- Wine with reduced
- 22 Holiday bay (6) 24 Mass picked up flag?
- Goodness! (5) Hundred pound in reserve

Fletcher ruled Brentford's Griffin Park pitch unplayable just two hours before kick-off, with around 1,000 City fans making the 200-mile journey to London.

As two more FA Cup third-round

games were lost to the weather

last night, furious Manchester

City have protested to the Foot-

ball Association over the cir-

curnstances surrounding the

last-minute postponement of

their tie at Brentford on Tuesday.

Last night's tie between Cov-

entry City and Woking and the

replay between West Ham and

Wrexham were postponed ow-

ing to frost and tog respective-

ly. On Tuesday referee Mick

The Maine Road club, whose

directors only found out about the

referee's decision via the radio as

they travelled to the match, are

unhappy Brentford failed to plan

"The situation is unacceptable

to us. I have made a strong

protest to the FA and made my

point to Brentford," the City sec-

retary, Bernard Halford, said.
"There should have been

more consideration given to

the prevailing weather condi-

tions. And consideration should

certainly have been given to the

for the freeze setting in.

Northerners (8) With last of morse fading, heard vessel in distress (8) Teach for a term (9)

Australians win marathon match Tennis

Australian Open history was made in Melbourne yesterday hours to complete.

The Australians Jon Ireland and Wayne Arthurs beat the Italian pair of Cristian Brandi and Filippo Messori, 6-3, 3-6, 29-27, with the last set the longest in the event's history,

over late call-off

volved, and to getting the ref-

ee Fletcher arrived at the

ground three hours before kick-

off and, after two inspections,

ruled the pitch unplayable. He

admitted: "Brentford officials

were apparently trying to con-

tact me in the afternoon. I was

on my way but don't have a mo-

was told the pitch was playable then. But I don't think Brentford

were anticipating the tempera-

ture would drop so severely. No-

body contacted me and I didn't

know anything about the pitch

inspection until I arrived at the

ground. It's up to the club to get

in touch with me.
"At 17.30 I looked at the pitch

and one side was badly affect-

ed by frost. I appreciate the fans

had travelled a long way, but we must take note of the weather

conditions, and players' safety

Halford added: "The first

check should have been made

on Monday night. If the refer-

ee could not get there, the FA

should have appointed someone

is first on the agenda."

"I left home at 1500hrs and

bile telephone.

West Bromwich-based refer-

eree there well in advance.

eclipsing a 23-21 set in 1990. The first-round match was still a long way from rivalling a tional at Newport, Rhode Island. quarter-final in the US Indoor

Championship in 1968 between Britain's Mark Cox and Bobby Wilson and the Americans Ron Holmberg and Charlie Pasarell, which totalled 144 games. That in turn fell short of the world record of 147 games - 3.6.

or centre at the same time.

selves open to complaint."

field at Vicarage Road.

49-47, 22-20 - at a 1967 invita-Aggressive Henman, page 26

City slam Brentford tances with all the costs in- been inspected at 1100 on Tuesday and the referee should have been in contact with the weath-"He would have been told what the weather would be in London during the course of the day. I believe he would have been told it would freeze in the afternoon. That would have helped him make his decision, but I also believe Brentford have left them-Brentford and City were not the only ones to suffer. Luton's tie against Bolton was called off less than an hour before kickoff, and referee Phil Richards blamed a freak drop in tem-WHEN YOU perature when he postponed the match between Watford and Oxford United minutes before ADD MERCURY the teams were set to take the Referee Paul Alcock came under fire from both sides after the SMARTCALL game between Gillingham and Derby was abandoned after 66 minutes at Priestfield Stadium. Alcock, who had inspected the pitch from 1700 until 1920 before giving the match the go-ahead, said: "When we came out for the second half, a quarter of the field was affected by frost fans who had to travel long dis- else to go. The pitch should have and, to me, it looked dangerous." Keep your phone, keep your number, keep your line. In fact, all you subtract with Mercury SmartCall is between 31-39% off BT's basic rate on all international economy calls of five minutes and over FreeCall Mercury SmartCall. You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save Proc and server courses a self-freezine 1996, peopleted reference and safe of 5 servers or septer, peopleted a problem.

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when the final set of a men's doubles match lasted 56 games in a match that, including rain breaks, took more than seven

Davi

...27

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